The Builder.

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*Brilliant Architectural Discoveries in Eastern Syria.**

BOOK of real travel, adventure, and discovery, bearing the rich fruits of culture and study in natural history, geology, local history, topographical description, and architecture, illustrated by the aid of the camera, written in good English, and perfumed by a rare and delicate modesty,—such a book as this does not often do credit even to the press of Mr. Murray. It is, we know, against all rules of general criticism thus to commence a notice of a book on which it is not intended subsequently to fall foul. But we confess to writing under the charm of a perusal at a single sitting, and we may be allowed for once to speak before the impression has had time to evaporate.

It is not in the present year that Canon Tristram has to win his spurs, either as an explorer or as an author. It is fourteen years since he first visited Palestine, and his "Land of Israel" is no doubt known to many of our readers. We have been of late rather over-dosed with the Holy Land. A subject of essentially unrivalled interest, it has been selected as a theme by writers who possessed no special fitness for the task of its description; or who, at all events, have not displayed much ability either to satisfy the intelligent curiosity, or to fill and warm the imagination, of their readers. On hearing of a new work on Palestine, one is apt to become conscious of a faint scent as of a sermon; and, whatever may or may not be the value of sermons under their natural circumstances, they are, at all events, generally intolerable in print. The difficulty experienced by the reader in their perusal leads to the reflection of the ease, or at all events the absence of skilled labour, which must have attended their production. Though a Doctor of Laws and a Canon of Durham, Dr. Tristram has not by any means given us a volume of sermons on Eastern Syria. Nor can we fail to pay a respectful tribute to the admirable taste of the few simple passages in which he has reminded us of the academic hood.

One main reason of the charm of the book we take to be that the writer is a practical naturalist. Unless Solomon, Æsop, and Lord Bacon are all terribly mistaken, there is no such training, for the man who seeks a higher culture than schools can give, as the study of natural history. It has at once the advantages of a hobby and of a curriculum. It teaches eye and hand, awakens industry, and stores the memory with golden wealth. For an exploration of an unknown, or almost unknown, country, such as the pages in question have so graphically brought before us, it is, perhaps, the first qualification; for it inspires a research that can never absolutely fail, and rarely be without valuable result. It tends to keep up the interest, the courage, and thus the health of the explorer. It assures him, day by day, that something, however small, is secured for our common stock of knowledge, by his toil and patience. And it not only leads to the record of zoological and botanical details that are in themselves of use, but it further tends to the more thorough comprehension of the geographical and architectural features that may be committed to the portfolio or the note-book; and, above all, fills the mind of the traveller with a wonderful appreciation of the picturesque.

The points which make Dr. Tristram's work a subject for comment in our pages are, of course, principally those which relate to the architecture of the country, a portion of which he is the first European with eyes in his mind who has trodden. We may add those which relate to its engineering. As to this, we have a new proof of the wonderful energy and enduring skill of that mighty race who made Syria the frontier when their empire marched with that of the Parthian monarchs. From south to north through the land of Moab, on the map which is inserted to show the route taken by Dr. Tristram and his companions, runs the well-defined double wall of the paved Roman way, connecting the fortresses, or central points, of Kerac, Rabbath, Diban, Beth Meon, and Elealeh. The pavement still exists, as it does on well-known portions of the ancient Roman roads in Italy; but it is broken up, and the flag-stones often stand on end. The width between the parallel walls is five yards. Across level country the road stretches as straight as an arrow. About eight miles to the west of this great military road a parallel line, also Roman, has been traced by our travellers for about a mile and a half, leading to an interesting and extensive ruin, known by the name of Um Weleed.

Next to the Roman roads, the chief engineering features of the country are those which are connected with water storage and distribution. To understand the importance, as well as to account for the extraordinary number, of ancient cisterns, we must bear in mind the physical features of the country. It is not, like the valley of the Nile, a land "watered with the foot," or by the use of the *n'aura*, or water-raising wheel. Like Palestine, it is a land of hills and valleys, and "drinketh water of the rain of heaven." But it is not fed by that rainfall, as it gushes from springs and trickles in brooks. When the needful supply comes down, it is with such violence that it sweeps through the country, delves deep clefts in the marl, and rushes through ravines to the Salt Lake, that receives the entire drainage of the district. Thus the construction of cisterns was an essential provision for the supply of the dense population that once tilled and fertilised the now deserted district. On the Moabite stone, if we can rely on the translation of M. Clermont Ganneau, is inscribed the memorial that the king of Moab ordered every man to build a cistern for himself. Dr. Tristram gives us a view of a tank at Ziza, a town which, under the later Empire, was one of the most important places of Roman Arabia: this is constructed of solid masonry, and measures 140 yards by 110 yards, or more than three times the area of the Great Birket Israil, at Jerusalem. The depth does not seem to have been ascertained, but the surface of the water was 17 ft. 6 in. below the edge of the tank. The masonry is magnificent. The courses run about 2 ft. thick, and many of the stones are 6 ft. long. This tank has been excavated at the angle of a wide shallow valley, just below the rising ground occupied by the town. At its north-east angle, above the top, are very perfect openings for sluice-gates, in massive masonry. In a line with these gates, and also at right angles to them, are great walls, each supported by a solid earthen embankment. The wall at right angles extends for some distance, beyond which the embankment is continued in the same line across the plain, so as to dam back any floods that might come down the valley. Higher up, in the middle of the embankment, was another set of sluice-gates for letting off the surplus water when the tanks were full. Stone breast-works, backed by embankments, are found further up the valley, constructed so as to turn the rainfall into the central channel.

As to architectural remains, Dr. Tristram is to be congratulated on discoveries of unusual importance. The long period of time during which this once fertile country has been inhabited may be divided into well-distinguished historic chapters, of almost each of which some distinct illustration has been secured by the labours of the expedition. To commence with the most ancient, —the non-historic if not pre-historic period, —we are told of a region of dolmens and megalithic remains. The dolmens consist invariably of four stones, three set on edge, at right angles to one another, and the fourth, from 6 ft. to 10 ft. square, fixed as a roof. In Moab they appear to be confined to the district between Heshbon and the Callirrhoe, although many similar structures are found in the bare parts of Gilead. They always occur on the sides, never on the tops, of hills. Irby and Mangles observed a group of twenty-seven dolmens in their route from Es Salt to Nablous. These consisted of two parallel upright stones, with one flat roof. Mr. Fergusson cites another considerable group at a place called Kafr er Wâs, not far from Tibneh. Dr. Tristram remarks that the three great classes of pre-historic monuments, viz., dolmens, stone circles, and cairns, exist in great abundance in three different parts of the country, but are never found together. The cairns are found exclusively in the east, on the spurs of the Arabian range; the stone circles, south of the Callirrhoe; and the dolmens, north of that valley. The existence of contemporary tribes, distinguished by different religious or funereal customs, living near to one another, is inferred from the observation. In our own country the co-existence of a burying, dolmen-building race, and of a barrow-raising incremating race, who paid small respect to the monuments of one another, seems even more distinctly indicated by the anomalous relations between these two distinct forms of funereal memorial.

Advancing to historic, though still very early times, we find traces of the Amorite inhabitants of the country in the sites and names of some of the cities, and in the use of basalt as a building material; the large blocks of which were fitted together in mortarless walls, as in the uncoursed Cyclopean work of better-known regions. Thus on Jebel Shihan, the highest point of the mountain plateau, from which the Roman road descends to cross the valley of the Arnon, a spot which Dr. Tristram identifies with the city of Sihon, the Amorite king, are found numerous inclosures walled with blocks of unsquared basalt, selected and fitted with extreme care, and resembling the Cyclopean remains in the Hauran or Bashan. They cover many acres. The side walls of the road are constructed of the same material; the use of which is more remarkable from the fact that limestone is the native rock of the country, and is used in all buildings which can be referred to the last 2,000 years. A fortress on this hill is built chiefly of limestone, although blocks of basalt, taken from more ancient buildings, have been intermixed. A Roman temple near the fortress, of which broken shafts and Ionic capitals remain, was built of limestone. It is very interesting to trace back the dim and half-shrouded links that connect, in this region, the earliest Semitic records with the relics of prehistoric times. "The Remnant of the Giants," at the time of the invasion of Palestine by Moses and Joshua, was found lingering in the neighbourhood of Cyclopean walls and megalithic tombs.

Ar of Moab, or Rabbath, Kir-Keres or Kerak, Dibon, Heshbon, and Elealeh, are other ancient cities of which the sites seem clearly

* The Land of Moab. Travels and Discoveries on the East Side of the Dead Sea and the Jordan. By H. B. Tristram, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., Hon. Canon of Durham. Murray, 1873.

determined. Great interest attaches to anything which may throw light on the situation of the four cities of the plain, which were overthrown by the great geological convulsion in the time of Abraham. The contribution which Dr. Tristram brings to our knowledge on this subject, is a proposed identification of Zoar, the fifth of the confederate cities, with Ziara, a large pile of ruins on a bold headland, "overhanging the head of the Dead Sea." Although this identification cannot be said to be absolute, it yet has a good *primâ facie* value. We are the more inclined to accept it from considerations which seem to us as yet to have been disregarded by most investigators of this interesting district.

Bela, or Zoar, is spoken of as the least of the cities of this ancient pentapolis. It was above the plain, in which the other four were situated. Of these four more important cities, no shadow of a trace has been found. We must keep in view their designation, "cities of the plain;" which does not altogether preclude the idea that, like every other city in this region, they occupied "tells" or eminences, although they may have been comparatively low. But the plain itself is now sought for in vain. The plain of Jordan, "as thou comest to Zoar," that was "well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, as the Garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt," is looked for in vain from the mountains of Moab. A small fringe of oasis, or fertile pasture, skirts the salt tide in places. To the north of the Dead Sea, beginning to widen at about four miles' distance, and rapidly expanding to a width of some fourteen miles eastward of the Jordan, lies Es Seisaban, or the Plain of Shittim. South of the same lake lies an area of similar country, covered first by cane brake, then by a belt of rushes, then by a strip of tall, reedy grass, next by a belt of scrub, affording only browsing for goats; then by a zone of rich, park-like land, yielding under cultivation, barley, wheat, millet, tobacco, and indigo; and, immediately on the gravel *talus* of the hills, by a scanty undergrowth, in which the osher, an asclepiad, is most conspicuous. At some period of time, no one doubts, before the Ghor, or valley of the Jordan, had sunk to its present abnormal and unique depression of 1,300 ft. below the level of the Mediterranean, the gulf of Akaba, the eastern of the two horns of the Red Sea, was the *embouchure* of the waters of this great line of drain. The plain grammatical sense of the book of Genesis, no less than Moslem tradition, implies the existence of a valley, now nowhere to be found, before the great convulsion that overthrew Sodom. It points in plain terms to a difference in the physical condition of the district before and after that overthrow. The vale of Siddim, *vallis Salsa* of the Septuagint, contained *putei bituminis*. No asphalte pits or wells are now known. The translation of St. Jerome is precise: *in vallem silvestrem, quæ nunc est Mare Salis*. The term Shaveh, translated "dale," only occurs in this passage of the Old Testament, and is applied first to the depression running from Kureyat, or Kiriathim, down the vale of the Arnon, towards the Dead Sea; and again, apparently, to the prolongation of the same feature on the opposite coast. If Sodom was situated on or near the spot where Arnon on the east, and Kedron on the west, fell into the original course of the Jordan, the whole description is perfectly clear. But if either the Persian invader, or the patriarch Abraham, had to make a detour round the actual north or south extremity of the Dead Sea, the passage cannot be readily explained. There is thus good reason to suppose that in the overthrow of "*omnem circa regionem*" we have the account of a phenomenon such as that which, on a smaller scale, but with not less awful surprise, occurred at Lisbon in the earthquake of 1755; when the quay, covered with terrified fugitives, sank to an unfathomed depth below the Tagus.

From this ancient date of Syrian cities, the stride to the most clearly-indicated period, that of the Idumean dynasty, and the Roman protectorate, and subsequent direct rule, carries us over a period of 2,000 years. Dr. Tristram has discovered and described Machærus, the famous fortress of Herod, built to guard the Arabian frontier. Masada, the stronghold on the western shore of the Dead Sea, has been previously known. Machærus, now called M'Khaur, stood on the summit of a cone, which is the apex of a long flat ridge, running, for more than a mile east and west, nearly half-way between the valley of the Arnon and the Callirrhoe. The whole of the ridge was fortified; but the key was an isolated and impregnable circular work, of exactly 100 yards diameter, on the very top of the cone. The peribolus can be clearly traced, its foundations standing several feet above the surface. There exist a well of great depth; a large and deep oblong cemented cistern, with the vaulting of the roof still remaining; and two dungeons, one deep, and with its sides scarcely injured. The absence of any traces of cement on the walls, and the existence of holes in the masonry, fitted for the reception of staples of iron and wood, show that this was a dungeon, and not a cistern. Dr. Tristram has added a most important identification to the very small number of sites that can be certainly connected with the events recorded by the Evangelists, in thus visiting and describing the spot where the messenger of Herod Agrippa "went and beheaded John the Baptist in the prison."

Under protection of the fortress lay a city, the ruins of which cover a larger area than any visited by our travellers,—a square mile of undulating hillocks. A small Doric temple faced the sunrise, and an old Roman road wound from the city to the castle. This prodigious pile of stones stands at a height of 3,800 ft. above the Dead Sea, and the distant walls of Jerusalem, and the hill country of Judea, are plainly visible across the valley. With this fortress, in the fourth year of Vespasian, fell the last fragment of the independence of Judea.

Of Roman rule and influence the traces are numerous. We have mentioned the Doric temple at Machærus. Similar fanes exist at Um Weleed and at Zebib, of the first of which Dr. Tristram gives a plan. We have mentioned an Ionic temple at Jebal Shihan. A fortified temple, of the Corinthian order, forms part of the ruins of Kustul. At Medeba a round temple seems to have been converted into a Christian church, and many Corinthian capitals strew the ground. Two columns are yet standing among the wide-spread ruins of this ancient Moabite city, which seem to have undergone an attempted restoration by the Saracens; for here, as in the dome of the Rock at Jerusalem, capitals of different forms, each far too small for the column on which it is placed, have been fixed on the shafts, and a block of stone has been laid across them, which yet maintains its place.

From Roman times we thus come down to those of the Khalifate, and of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem. Chief among these may be named the virgin fortress of Kerac, where Dr. Tristram's party were imprisoned by the savage Mudjelli, or Turkish ruler of the place; and had the honour of occasioning the march of the Pasha of Jerusalem, with horse, foot, and artillery, to a rescue that was happily effected, in consequence of the wise precautions of the valued friend of the expedition, Mr. Klein, of Jerusalem, before his arrival. The walls of the double Castle of Kerac are more massive and imposing than those of Avignon, which they recall to the mind. The arch that faces the tunnelled entrance to this rocky hold is of the elliptical form used in some of our finest railway tunnels. Dr. Tristram makes one of the very few slips we have noted in saying that this fine castle was built under King Fulk, and strengthened under Godfrey of Boulogne. Kerac was the *seigneurie* of Réné de Chatillon, in right of his second marriage; and the lions rampant which flank an Arabic inscription built into the wall of the castle, no doubt recall the golden lion of the Chatillon escutcheon. Of work of the Christian times, we can only further notice the wide-spread ruins of Um Rasas, of which a photograph is given, as is the case with regard to the square, solidly-built tower, standing up to the height of six times its width, near the same spot, which is the scene of a legend of the Jinns and the Ghoules.

We have reserved to the close the discovery which, to the architect, is the crown of the whole successful expedition, and a tacit reproof to the Palestine Exploration Society. Near the eastern limit of the plains of Moab was said to exist a ruined khan, which no one had visited, and which was not worth the trouble of a visit. Dr. Tristram had no idea of accepting Arab *dicta* as to matters of the kind; and a sharp canter of an hour and a quarter from Ziza brought him within view of a magnificent ruin, unnamed in the maps, and unknown to history. What a moment for him! We envy him the thrill it must have caused him. A square quadrangle, 170 yards long on each face, rose with round bastions at each angle, and five demi-bastions between; the curtain being 18 ft. high. On the south face was the only entrance, a gateway, flanked by two octagonal towers, with a fretted façade of 52 yards long in the centre. On the wall is wrought a bold pattern of vandykes, or, as Dr. Tristram puts it, "like a continued W, with a large rose boss between each angle," above and below. The cut we are kindly enabled to reproduce will show the nature of this ornamentation.* "These patterns stand out boldly from the plane of the wall. Every side of their surface, and all the interstices, are covered with fretted work, representing animals, fruit, and foliage, in endless variety." The birds and beasts are correctly drawn, and do not die away in arabesque. Upwards of fifty animals are represented, in all sorts of attitudes, enclosed in cornices and mouldings of conventional patterns, and the interstices filled in with very beautiful adaptations of folinge. The quadrangle was divided into three courts, the central parallelogram being 66 yards wide. Seventeen or eighteen chambers on either side of the entrance served for guard-rooms. A large open hall, flanked by chambers with vaulted brick roofs, formed the chief apartment of this noble palace, for the further details of which we refer our readers to the work itself, and to the admirable woodcuts which give plan, elevation, and details, of this long-forgotten work of Oriental magnificence.

We are disposed to agree with Mr. Fergusson in attributing this unique relic to the Persian sovereign Chosroes II.,—a determination which gives the date A.D. 614—627. It appears never to have been entirely finished. There is no trace of Christian symbol in the enrichment. The presence of the animal forms shows that it is not Saracenic. It is different from anything Roman. Unlike the capitals of the Kubbet es Sakhrah, and of the Masjid el Aksa, at Jerusalem, those of the inner palace have been wrought for the places they occupy; indeed much of the ornamental work has been carved *in situ*, that is to say after the stones were set. Thus the value of the discovery, as supplying an example of the architecture of an age and a style hitherto unknown, is of the first importance. The exquisite details of the fretwork are well displayed by woodcuts from the photographs taken by Dr. Tristram's party. They will suggest to many the origin of architectural forms to be found in India, Venice, and elsewhere, and ought to lead to some dissertation. We reproduce a restoration of one front of this hitherto unknown Persian palace, made by Mr. Fergusson.

Dr. Tristram deserves the thanks of the architect, the naturalist, the geologist, the historian, and the geographer, and we lay down the pen only to glance afresh over his most interesting pages.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

AMONGST notes to be added to those already made is one to tell of the present positive attractiveness of what may be seen at Burlington House; for the crowds that fill the spacious galleries are more than three-fifths of the fairer sect of those who love pictures,—it need scarcely be said how composed the remainder may be; and although it is a weak trust for judgment to be led by what a pretty critic says of less pretty faces that are to be found in the pictures than her own,—"She never saw anything so lovely!"—it would be a mistake to think the Royal Academy Exhibition this summer not a very attractive one.

A seated figure of a Grecian maiden wreathing bays for some happy victor's head is exquisitely indicative of Mr. F. Leighton's art, that in its best form idealises without destroying nature and probability: the girl is very beautiful,—with such classic graces more often to be found epitomised in cold marble than in the warmth of genial colour,—that it must be guessed she is the Victoria of him for whom she is "Weaving the Wreath" (261), being laurel-crowned herself: this highly-finished study is the single picture Mr. Leighton contributes, but a design for mural decoration,—an allegory of "The Industrial Arts of Peace" (1,270), companion to the already exhibited "Arts of War," forming part of a projected adornment at the South Kensington Museum will fully account for this. Of all things in the world, — excepting dragons and comets,—allegories are the most contentious in the many-minded apprehension of their meaning and purpose. Taken as a display of academic learning and inventive adaptation of various

* See p. 403.

attitudes in the several models that go to its mould, this composition deserves all praise: the ladies who are engaged to adumbrate the peaceful arts that help them to give no peace; the hair-dressing; dressmaking,—looking-glass worship that make women idols and men idolaters, are charmingly expressive and arranged (what a feast they would make for Mr. Poynter's dragon before More had left not much of him), but the hard work of factory-mill lessened by art; the great head-work that has reduced hand-labour's difficulties in mining; weaving; printing; ploughing—the earth and ocean; holding friendly converse with those from whom hundreds of miles of deep sea divide and do not divide us: the bread-making, in fact, to feed mind as well as body, should bear some part in an exposition of the industrial arts of peace.

Mr. Leighton's Monochrome is a notable work, though music, poetry, and perfume are made uppermost in his idea of peaceful art: of industrial, he is one of its best expositors; to no better example could those who ask for combination of the real and ideal refer, so far as the refinement a classical refinement gives, than to Mr. Leighton's best pictures. Many stories have been told about dragons, beasts of insatiable and epicurean appetite, and these have been swallowed so generally, and enjoyed so much, that Mr. E. J. Poynter must be considered quite kind to provide a new one for all who are fond of the marvellous: besides, the dragon is a national institution with Britishers, who know it to be more than the coin of the brain, if the head of the sovereign does give currency to the tale of the dragon St. George put a finis to. Mr. Poynter, no doubt, has found some very black-letter precedent to the popular edition, by which the true and particular account of the "Fight between More, of More Hall, and the Dragon of Wantley" (541), comes down to later date, for there is nothing at all burlesque in this relation: the dragon is real enough to vitalise the report of the deadest cracker ever told to verify fights of fable, and, had it been a very old representation, such a portrait of the period would put a full stop to any sentence condemning it to disbelief, further than would imply just a little doubt, if half a dozen Life Guards of more degenerate days would get the better of such a little difficulty as the dragon of Wantley, in less time than it had taken this concentrated force of a phalanx—the champion More, of More Hall. Mr. Poynter's genius has given breath to the concatenations of crocodile, Chinese fireworks, and lion's paws, and shown how to invest them with life,—as well as with and to his best knowledge, of the best method in killing them. The picture is painted to fill a panel at Wharncliffe Park, near Wharncliffe Chase, the scene of the legend, and to serve as a *pendant* to the same artist's "Perseus." There are curious animals enough left in Egypt, bases for exaggeration to make monsters of, to account for the boast of Crusaders begetting Mediæval belief in dragons. Even cattle and sheep, and such harmless things, are ugly there; and Mr. F. Goodall is a more trustworthy authority than the first-class traveller of former days, who took toll with a vengeance.

"Subsiding of the Nile" (292) leaves such a view of blank promise of pasture for gaunt herds, such a show of what inundation has hidden for a time, and killed to regenerate; the damage that no dam of any age could present; that the pyramids, best monuments of such stability as the world can show, and the wide expanse of calm, smiling sky, that would seem to smile the more if any vaunt could be made of this same stability—in Mr. Goodall's noble picture are quite a sermon on the text "Faith." Landscape, native figures, camels, and cattle are all so well depicted here that it would be quite a question as to the category of denominational professorship Mr. Goodall's name should come under. He asserts a right to all, but more widely, that the true artist, like the true author, can tell thoroughly well of all he observes. The thorough system adopted by parent passes to son, and if the "Capri Girls Winnowing" (372) is early show of it, the promise of great distinction for Mr. H. Goodall is more than half performed. It is a lovely picture, and not nearly so easily to be identified with the source of its style as Mr. C. Hunter's seascapes are with Mr. Hook's. "Trawlers waiting for Darkness" (386) is an extraordinary instance of example's dictation; not but what the power must have been ready, waiting its direction. How often is power misspent through the want of this guidance.

That pity which is akin to love has done more for many an object of it than would be possible to other regard, excepting that of love. Genius, eccentricity, and a sad end to them, with the pity it excites, do for the marvellous boy Chatterton what the amber does for the substance, fly or moth or accidental matter, that it surrounds and beautifies. Mrs. E. M. Ward's admirably studied and painted pictures are always looked for at Royal Academy exhibitions, and she has never painted better, nor studied more thoroughly, than in adding to the interest felt for the "Bristol Wonder,"—

> "The marvellous boy who perish'd in his pride."

Mrs. Ward shows him at work in his study, an attic he had appropriated under his mother's roof, where, in solitude, he delighted to lock himself up with his books, papers, parchments, paints, and drawing materials, to be surprised sometimes, having, in his eagerness to become busy, forgotten to turn the key. The church of St. Mary Redcliff, seen through the window, fixes the locality, and makes the story unmistakable. "Mrs. Edkins (his foster-mother) relates:—When she could get into his room she would. Once he put his foot on a parchment on the floor to prevent her taking it up, saying, 'You are too curious and clear-sighted; I wish you would bide out of the room. It is my room.'" This is the moment of Mrs. Ward's illustration, that, by capital personations of the angry, sullen boy, and good-tempered inquisitive Mrs. Edkins, and with the brilliant skill with which interior effect and carefully selected articles of still life are imitated, is a perfect realisation of the incident. Sun-rays from a rift in the storm-laden sky stream light through the window that seems to betoken the gleam of promise that dark clouds smothered so soon. As well harness Pegasus to a Pantechnicon van as attempt to curb genius. So think many. If genius were the uncontrollable gift that some of its appearances leave room for supposing it to be, it is beneficially ordained, indeed, that the gift should be a rare one; but the supposition is about as absurd as would be ingratitude for the brightness and warmth of glorious sun-light that occasionally burns a house down, through a knot in the glass that admits it. From Tycho Brahe's time to now, comets have defied all opinion of their purpose, their use, their intended influence. Short record of astonishing appearance, disturbing effect, and sudden exit, is the tale of all comets, and of Chatterton among them. Mrs. Ward will find numerous admirers of her very interesting subject amongst those who think more of the mind than of its warp; of its error being more induced, perhaps, than innate; and whilst deploring its wrong turn, deplore as much its want of that kind help for right direction,—and, for the rest, who would think—

> "The painting is almost the natural man;
> For, since dishonour traffics with man's nature,
> He is but outside: these pencill'd figures are
> Even such as they give out:"—

If they thought ever so severely of Chatterton, the artist's "pencill'd figure" is worthy of better consideration, and they will like him better now; and let their displeasure go "not a frown farther" than yesterday's thought tempered by to-day's consideration will allow.

Looking at just such pictures as polite behaviour, in company of many who are looking too, will permit, we come to a nice one.

Mr. J. Tissot has devoted much patient labour to the exquisite elaboration he exhibits connected with genteel sailor-life, and the attractive effect a smart lieutenant or first mate uniformly has on lasses or young ladies who love sailors (by "uniformly" it is not to be inferred that more than due allusion is made to the becoming wear of true blue; though it goes without saying, and is the most natural thing in the world, that many of its wearers are manly, handsome gentlemen). Mr. Tissot's scenes are as puzzling to some as the second act of a French comedy would be to any one who had not seen the first and did not know the language. The "Last Evening" (108) most certainly affects the damsel who is looking at nothing, but taking binocular view of a separation from the good-looking officer seated with her father, who sails to-night, and is hearing stipulations for her happiness and advantage. She is wondering how Walter will bear losing sight of her. She knows she never can live without him: the sea and ships are horrors to her, and her mother thought the same before her. Walter thinks the governor hard but reasonable, as he listens to the old adjuration to patience; and memorandum, that "if a girl is not worth waiting for, she is scarcely worth the thinking of." This is as clear for one reading as all the very cleverly represented adjuncts that form the descriptive locality for the story.

A commoner mind would have depicted the need for a sea voyage more plainly to "The Captain's Daughter" (121), but it is thought wise to keep her in ignorance that her health is a cause for anxiety, and Mr. Tissot only whispers this. How long that intensely-loving lover will manage to keep the secret, his worship knows or does not know. The girl is lovely: not only by reason of the face bringing the knowledge, but of the knowledge the face and the action of the beautiful hands express; for she knows better than she can be told how vague are the hopes entertained for her. It was not for the sake of painting intricate rigging, masts, and spars, and many other things, and giving such value to matter of fact—that, for the vulgar, is the great charm of the picture—the picture was painted at all. Old experience in black is the doctor, and he is giving a very honest opinion. Mourning still a similar loss, he adjures the stout captain to care for prevention. Mr. Tissot's interesting story is too pleasantly told not to leave it a sure thing that the dear girl will be so benefited by the voyage that next year we may see her married to her handsome lover, and just in time for the ball that will be given on the occasion.

ARCHITECTURE AND DECORATIVE ART IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

To make an Art-Exhibition every year, on so large a scale as the galleries of the International Exhibition building demands, is, as we have duly pointed out before, scarcely possible. In regard to the higher branches of art especially, it is useless to expect that picture galleries of this extent can be filled annually with modern paintings of at all a high average. But although a first hasty walk through this year's Exhibition will convey the impression that there is in the art department a mass of things not worth looking at, a more careful inspection shows that there is enough of good art to be discovered, of one kind or another, to furnish matter for much enjoyment and some study, though intermixed with much of an inferior kind.

The collection of architectural drawings in the gallery of the Albert Hall, though not numerous, is good in point of quality, so far at least as draughtsmanship is concerned; and includes, with some well-known works, some which we have not seen illustrated before. Mr. Worley's "Interior of Exchange Hall" (2,904), part of a competition design for Stockton Exchange, is a good water-colour of a rather fine room, with no very special character about it. The "Wesleyan Chapel, Tunbridge Wells" (2,905), by Mr. C. Bell, is a very good design of its class, Early Gothic, with a side entrance and stair turret to gallery, treated in an original manner; the drawing a line one, in sepia for the main building, and the background and accessory buildings in black ink. Captain Mant's (R.E.), "design for High School, at Kolhapur" (2,908), is better than many engineering designs we have seen; it is an adaptation of Moorish architecture. Mr. Rowland Plumbe's "Bryant and May testimonial Fountain" (2,913), if not *matchless*, is certainly not below the ordinary merit of drinking-fountain designs. Messrs. Satchell & Edwards's "Wesleyan Chapel, Stoke Newington" (2,915), looks, perhaps, rather better in the drawing than in reality, but it is a building of considerable merit and originality; the treatment of the tower, with its heavy, almost unbroken, brick buttresses, and the high narthex roof forming a kind of transept to it, realises a solid and dignified effect. A pretty bit of domestic architecture (half timber) is shown in "Roselands, Millbrook" (2,917), by Mr. Young; and Mr. Hall's church at Dorchester (2,918, 2,925) will bear inspection. Mr. Weir's "Wesleyan Chapel, Clapham" (2,928), is a fine drawing of a very weak design. "A Cottage Residence," by R. A. Came (2,929), is very good, both as to drawing and design. Mr. Howard Saye's beautiful drawing of the Aberystwith College (2,934) is much better seen here than at the Academy last year, where it was hung too high. It is quite a study in pen-and-ink drawing of this type. There is also a coloured drawing of Victoria-terrace at Aberystwith. Mr. Morrison Marnock's drawings (2,931–5–6) should be looked at as beautiful specimens of elevation line drawing, rather in the French style of

execution. The "Sketch of half-timbered House with Shop" is in every way praiseworthy. Messrs. George & Vaughan's "Entrance-lodges, Rousdon, Devon" (2,937), are a little too ostentatiously rustic and "cottagey." "Design for Suspension-bridge between Putney and Fulham" (2,945) is entirely spoilt by the bird-cage erections on the top of the piers, intended to give "lightness," no doubt, but only resulting in clumsiness. Such things as the piers of a suspension-bridge cannot be treated (architecturally) in too broad and solid a manner. "Design for a Gentleman's House" (2,944), by Cole A. Adams, is good in its way: a strongly-coloured red-brick structure, with angle-tower decorated with sgraffito work in its upper stages: and "Chorley Town-hall, 1872" (2,949), by Mr. A. Bickerdike, is a successful attempt at what may be described as Gothic grouped and composed in a Classic manner. A "Design for a Town Church" (2,930), interior perspective, by Mr. E. Mount, is a good monumental-looking interior, with double pier-columns, and a "blind" triforium decorated with wall-paintings.

In stained glass there are only a few contributions this year. The window by Messrs. Gibbs, on the south-east staircase, "The Consecration of Solomon's Temple," is one of the usual patch-works of coloured dresses and architectural canopies, without a single suggestion in treatment other than what has been done a hundred times before. On the north-west staircase three domestic windows, by Messrs. Cox & Sons, suggests some originality of treatment in a simple manner. The upper one, of a Renaissance type, shows refined treatment of floral ornaments in panels on a light diaper ground; the two lower ones, in the Gothic manner, exhibit small figure subjects from Chaucer, Shakspeare, Milton, and Tennyson, with medallion portraits of the poets, the greater part of the space, however, being occupied by geometrical diaper in small squares, and with a happily-toned border of conventional leaves in low green tints: the whole effect is very pleasing, though the figure portions are not the most satisfactory part. A window adjoining, illustrating the "Good Shepherd," is a total failure in the heads (life size), which are coarse and inexpressive to a degree, illustrating once more the unsuitability of stained glass to represent any but the most conventional and unornamental type of figure. Some panels of ornamental diaper adjoining show a tolerably rich, but not refined, effect of colour. The window for St. Peter's College, Cambridge, by Messrs. Morris & Co. (south-west staircase), claims more special notice, as marked by an individuality of style and treatment, and as the work of an artist who is put forward as the one new light in stained-glass art by a school who are much given to praise one another. This is a triplet window, containing full-length portrait figures of three benefactors, or former "heads" (we presume), of St. Peter's College, in red furred gowns, and standing on a strip of flowered carpet, crossing the window over the transom. All the glass, excepting the figures and their armorial bearings in the spaces below, is left (after Mr. Morris's recent manner) in quarries of nearly white glass, with a very slight grisaille diaper. This method, by which the figures stand out in a blank space, must be designated as a whim, which may or may not have a good effect, according to circumstances. In the present instance it is, perhaps, the best way in which the window could have been treated, if the colour of the dresses of the figures is obligatory; for it is difficult to see what colour accessories could harmonise with them, without rendering the whole design very sombre and heavy. The faces of the figures are better drawn and delineated than in most similar cases, though the exaggerated stoop forward of the right-hand figure is not happy; the effect of the mass of dull red in the dresses is anything but pleasing, and it would surely have been better to have idealised the costume a little. If the window is to be placed at some distance, and high up, it may look better than here; as it is, we cannot regard the effect as very happy. The centre figure, with the big cowl over the head, seems even studiously ungainly, but the design is at all events free from vulgarity, which is a good deal to say as stained glass designs go. A curious contrast to this is a German window, on the N.E. staircase, commemorative of the late Teutonic successes in arms: a mailed figure leaning on a shield bearing the Prussian eagle, and holding a battle-axe; a crimson drapery forms the background, but the head is relieved against a kind of blue lattice work. Everything here is purely conventional; the colour is better than in many German windows we have seen (we intend no very extravagant commendation); and there is a certain dignity in the design. Placed at a proper distance, and in a good *prononcé* scroll-and-wreath modern Renaissance building, it would fall into its place well enough.

All the decorative furniture, &c., worth speaking of is collected this year in Room XIX., and a very nice collection it makes, the average quality of the work, in proportion to quantity, being better than in either of the two previous years. In regard to the furniture proper cabinets, and so forth), there is more elegance of form and less of that stiffness and angularity of line which has previously characterised so much of the Gothic furniture. Among good things in this style, are one or two small angle cabinets (2,639 and others), of good and somewhat new design. A sideboard by C. Bevan (2,620), of plain wood, with polished shafts, and bas-reliefs illustrative of corn and wine carved on the cupboard doors, is a piece of work in very good taste, and well executed, without any show or glitter; the only mistake is in the rather coarse blue and white flowered tiles at the back, which do not at all harmonise with the tone of the wood, or with the style of the whole thing. We call attention to this, because tiles are inserted into everything just at present, and more judgment ought to be exercised in the selection of them, otherwise this source of effect becomes a mere trick. A dining-room chair, by the same hand (2,621) is equally praiseworthy, simple and yet effective, and thoroughly suited to its purpose. A chair and cabinet of inlaid marble (2,623–4), by F. Dalan, are very well executed, but the material is quite out of place in a chair, which ought always to appear, though solid, easily movable, and with a certain elasticity. The ebonised cabinet (2,631) is not improved by the introduction of Mr. Moyr Smith's tile-paintings. A small standing oak fire-screen (2,631 *a*) exhibited by Messrs. Cox & Sons, is really a new idea and a pretty one. It consists of a centre-piece and two unfolding leaves, each framed with sash-bars, and filled with three panes of stained glass; the finish at the top is not good, but otherwise it is a very pleasing thing. The oaken sideboard (2,638) designed by Mr. Talbert, is a very good solid architectural-looking object; the effect of the inlaid conventional flowers is excellent; but here, again, the tiles are out of keeping with the rest, and injure the effect. Messrs. Cox exhibit some brass church furniture in their usual style, and with their usual excellence of execution, but presenting nothing for comment. An ebonised cabinet with canopy, by S. J. Nicholl (2,630), is the most original piece of furniture design exhibited; the "composition" and outline are very good; it is decorated with conventional leaf patterns on a gold ground, somewhat resembling in freedom and flow of line the ornament often found in Persian porcelain. Among articles of furniture of the Renaissance type, the cabinet by Fourdinois (2,625) is the most elaborate, with numerous delicately-carved figures; the mixture of inlay with carving (a light wood for the flesh-tints of the figures, and a darker one for the drapery) is, however, a questionable expedient. The large oak bookcase (2,640), by Venter, of Brussels, is a good piece of oak carving, mostly guiltless of sandpaper, in the Brussels taste, with panels carved in relief, somewhat in the Grinling Gibbons manner; the decoration has little reference to the object of the article. The inlaid marqueterie cabinet, by Saleur and Vanderschuren (2,632), is a good specimen of a class of work in which the labour is very much out of proportion to the artistic result. Some wise person has taken the trouble to paint two tables, one in imitation of inlaid wood, and another in imitation of inlaid marble (2,621, A and B); they are really wonderfully well done, and quite cheat the eye at first glance; their author must have spent much time and labour over them, which it is to be hoped he will learn to employ to better purpose in future. With these, in artistic value, may be classed the inlaid marqueterie table (2,622), by N. Corpataux, a most elaborate piece of work in the worst possible taste as to design and colour. The Duke of Edinburgh lends a Cingalese cabinet and chair (2,635–6), the former curious from the effect of the mottled wood of which it is composed, and both for the oddly "Classic" character of some of the ornament; and an Indian chair of pierced ivory, silver mounted: this latter is an odd instance of the utterly wrong application of ornament; the whole of the framework, and even legs of the chair, are composed of thin ivory, pierced in an almost gauze-like perforated pattern. It is to be presumed there is some solid substructure to give the required support, but the look of the thing is as if it would crush like an eggshell if any one were venturous enough to sit down on it. The terra-cotta chimney-piece, by Doulton & Co. (2,624 A), is a very good piece of terra-cotta work, so sharp and defined in the frieze of birds and flowers under the shelf, as to suggest the idea that it must have been tooled up afterwards; but it is a great pity that manufacturers cannot get better designs to lay their material on: the present, as a design, is simply worthless. Under this chimney-piece is a specimen of damascened work, by Zuloaga (Spain), whose work of this kind we noticed last year, in the shape of a large salver (2,675), of really splendid workmanship and design; and four brass trays (2,666), with flat incised ornament, by J. W. Singer (Frome), are very good specimens of this kind of work; and a brass enamelled salver, with a radiating pattern of somewhat Moorish character, by Lepec (France) (2,664), is a very beautiful piece of work.

There is too great a run, as we have hinted, on tiling. It seems to be accepted now that we may do anything on tiles; for instance, there is a series of designs here, by Mr. Marks, for the "Seven Ages of Man," executed on tiles, in which one feels that the design is quite thrown away on a material in which its merits cannot be realised. Then, Messrs. Simpson & Sons exhibit great panels of painted tiles, with extraordinary depictions of animal life in fearful and wonderful colours,—things utterly abhorrent to any rightly-constituted artistic mind. Mr. Coleman, whose painted plaques, with female figures, we admired in last year's Exhibition, sends a similar one on a larger scale (2,466), but the figure is not so successful; it is too large in the body, and too small in the extremities. Mr. Moyr Smith's design "Homeros," the drawing of which is in the Academy, is here executed in tiles, and is, at all events, in a manner and execution, suitable to tile painting, which cannot be said of much of the work of this kind. The contributions from Minton's art-pottery studio seem more marked by good execution than good art. Two small vessels (2,624*a*, 2,657), carved in *stone* by Lieut.-Col. Pollock, present a novel effect from the subdued silver-grey lustre of the surface, which is carved with birds and flowers on a small scale in low relief. They would be valued by artists as accessories in a still-life painting.

Two mosaic life-size figures, designed by Mr. F. W. Moody, and worked in the Kensington School of Art by F. H. Cole and others, are exhibited,—"Raffaelle" and "Blondel" (2,560-1). Of these the latter is the best in pose and composition, and has most character. The drapery in the Raffaelle is somewhat stiff in line, and the face is hardly a success, but would probably appear better at a proper distance; these are almost too near the eye to be fairly judged of as mosaics. The specimen of artificial mosaic pavement, by Messrs. Rust & Co., in the Albert Hall gallery, should be looked at by all architectural visitors who have not yet employed or noticed this very beautiful manufacture, which gives a tone and texture of surface for floors and dados much richer than tiling. Some of the geometric colour designs in this are very good.

We may mention in this place the remarkable *fac simile* (produced by the aid of photography) of the Bayeux tapestry, which is hung round the gallery. In the way of illustrative manufacture this is quite an achievement, giving the texture as well as the lines of the original: the interest of the tapestry itself, as an example of early attempt at the portrayal of human figures in action, is well known, and the intention and grouping is full of spirit in many places, in spite of the childish character of the drawing; as a study of tone in colour it is suggestive enough to the decorative artist of the present day. From tapestry to lace is an easy transition; and we may conclude our jottings on decorative art by mentioning that there is some pleasing lace design to be seen in the Gallery and in Room XIX., among which we are glad to see examples of more studied and geometric design than is common in this kind of work; much of what is called good lace appearing to consist, in point of design, merely in a kind of aimless mingling of forms to produce a pretty and intricate *ensemble*. Exceptions to this are the designs marked 2,722-3-4 (in Room XIX.), which are very systematically worked out; the last-

named, however, is a copy of old French lace, made at Lady Molyneux's school. This, which is in squares of alternating geometric patterns, very much resembles in style of treatment the lace which is now made by the native Brazilians, and which in point of real good taste and artistic effect is much superior to "Brussels," though a far less delicate manufacture.

We reserve some remarks as to the foreign pictures that are worth looking at; which really are not "few," though certainly somewhat "far between."

PICTURES BY PHILLIP AND CRESWICK.

THE idea of making the International Exhibition an opportunity for collecting together the works of deceased painters of the British school is a good one, and has resulted in giving an interest to the picture-galleries this year which they would scarcely have possessed otherwise. In regarding the collected works of any one artist, we are able often to form a far better idea both of his strength and his weakness than from acquaintance with a comparatively small number of specimens which accidental success has popularised; and even practised art-critics may find their judgment of a painter materially modified, for better or worse, by a study of all his principal works in juxtaposition. In carrying out in future exhibitions the idea thus started, the selection, we are told, is to be made with care, and the choice of a painter's name for this kind of illustration is to be regarded as a testimony to the real posthumous value of his works. It may also, however, have the effect in some cases of exploding a reputation which has been insufficiently based.

The paintings by Phillip and Creswick collected in Galleries XVI. and XVII. number about 330 (including sketches and unfinished pictures), of which considerably the larger proportion are by the former artist. The juxtaposition is an unfortunate one for the landscape-painter, for his quiet brown tones are quite killed by the bright colouring and "full" painting of the Spanish scenes of Phillip. In a general way, the mixture of landscape with figure subjects is not disadvantageous to either; but where one painter has worked in such comparatively quiet and delicate tones, the manifest injustice of placing his pictures amid a number of others painted in a much higher key ought to have been avoided, and the landscapes placed separately. The collected works of Phillip exhibit to a remarkable degree the change which may come across the tone, style, and predilections of the same painter in the course of an artistic lifetime. The earlier works of Phillip,—mostly scenes and incidents of Scottish life,—are a kind of faint echo of David Wilkie, with a truer feeling for colour, certainly, but also a feebleness of character and humour remarkable in one who could afterwards paint works characterised by so much vigour of style and point in composition. These earlier works, therefore, we cannot regard as "John Phillip," but only as the preparation for him. He found his real powers and capabilities, both as to execution and expression, when he made Spain the land of his artistic adoption. But in his Spanish pictures there are, again, two distinctly-marked periods, the point of change being almost precisely referable to the year 1860. The Spanish pictures painted before that year include some of those by which the artist has been most popularised through exhibition and engraving,—such as "The Gipsy Sisters" (1,217 in the Exhibition Catalogue), "The Letter-writer of Seville" (1,223), and others. In these and kindred works the painter seems merely to have seized on the outward materials which are presented to the painter in Spain, the glow of dark cheeks and bright black eyes, the colour and picturesqueness of dress; and his style of manipulation is of that kind of hard and brilliant polish and finish which takes the popular eye, and leads to a demand for engravings. It is only in the pictures painted since 1860 that the artist shows evidence of having penetrated into the national character to such an extent as to throw the inner spirit of it, as well as the outward form, on the canvas. His manner of execution too, subsequent to the above date, is much altered; the colours become richer and more harmonious, but less bright; the manipulation changes from the polished smoothness of the earlier works to a manner rougher in appearance, but with far more richness and variety of texture. The one exception in point of character, perhaps, among the earlier pictures, is the admirable "La Carita," painted in 1857, the result of careful studies from the reverend father depicted, and who is related to have been surprised and scandalised at the result of the sittings he gave, till the artist explained that it was his "prudence" which was intended to be illustrated. Of the later series one of the earliest and cleverest as a study of character is "Doubtful Fortune" (1,203), where a young Spanish lady is having her fortune told from cards held by a sturdy half-savage-looking gipsy girl, with matted black locks, who screws up her eyes, and fairly grins in her endeavour to decipher what is "on the cards." Among the larger compositions, the fine one (perhaps his best work) "La Gloria" (1,311), should be compared with the first sketch for the work on the opposite wall (1,229); the manner in which the composition has been altered is interesting. In the sketch the perspective of the composition is sharper, the foreground group occupies a larger part of the canvas, and the gay scene in the courtyard beyond is backed by an arched gateway so placed as to seem a kind of triumphal arch over the principal background figures. In the finished picture the dancers are more fully shown, and the work is probably more taking to the popular eye; but breadth and effectiveness of composition as well as feeling have been somewhat sacrificed. The large picture of "The Early Career of Murillo" (1,329), is not altogether a good subject for the painter; there is some want of concentrated interest in it. As a composition it is very carefully worked out, and the figure of the "Gitana," who has probably been acting, with her little boy, as a model, is very characteristic, with her sensuous exuberance of form and stupid gaze at the picture. Certainly superior to this, however, in point and expression, as well as in power of execution, are the two scenes at the State lottery, "Loteria Nacional," "Reading the Numbers" and "Buying the Tickets" (1,212 and 1,235; the order should have been reversed in hanging). The contrast in the former, between the look of the fierce, desperate man who has drawn nothing, and the evil-looking female who lowers from behind, and on the other side the gay, thoughtless couple who have been lucky, is finely given; and in "Buying the Tickets" there is a fine stroke of satire in the action of the little girl devoutly kissing the hem of the priest's garment, while that worthy is at the same moment carefully inserting his ticket between the leaves of his breviary. The figures on the left in this picture scarcely explain themselves sufficiently, or else are insufficiently connected with the subject. Among the smaller works a conspicuously excellent one is "A Chat round the Brazier" (1,307), where the priest, demonstrating an argument by the help of his pipe, and the fat, jovial-looking dame opposite to him, form a contrast full of genuine humour; the rest of the figures find their place well in the composition, and help out the point of it. "The Wine-drinkers" (1,313) is a perfect picture of luxurious indulgence; and among the single figures a somewhat similar success is achieved in "El Cigarillo" (1,400), representing a portly damsel reclining lazily back, and slowly puffing out the smoke between her fat lips, in a kind of languid intensity of enjoyment. The unfinished pictures, which are all together in Room XVII., are of much interest, and show that the artist's talent and power were improving to the last. The large picture, "Selling Relics at the Church-porch," is one of the best and most carefully composed in the collection, both as to grouping and colour; the woman contemplating her purchase with a smirk of satisfaction at the bargain, and the pomposity of manner in the stout old lady struggling into the church-door with her back to the spectator, are excellent items in this work; not less so the beggar's dog, unpainted, and merely indicated by a few masterly strokes. "Off Duty" (1,458), "Mendicants receiving Relief at a Convent" (1,461: the child's face exquisite), "The Seamstress" (1,451), an admirable composition of two figures, are all worth attention; and one of the cleverist things in the gallery is the rough sketch called "Winnowing Corn" (1,462), a simple but most effectively grouped composition of three figures; the action of the young woman winnowing, the sway and movement of her body under the dress, are given in a most masterly manner. "Dear me, what a wretched daub! Some amateur, I suppose," was the comment vented in our ears by two respectable persons of broadcloth variety, at the moment of making our note. Will it ever be any use letting the British public into a picture-gallery? Before quitting Phillip it may be mentioned, that the artist is represented also by a fair proportion of portraits, most of which, however, are early works, and decidedly weak in treatment. That his subsequent neglect of portraiture was not from want of power to treat it in later years, is evident from the simple but striking likeness of "Sam. Bough, A.R.S.A." (1,287), who is shown sitting, palette in hand, before his easel, a figure full of character, and looking certainly about as wild and untrimmed as the bleak northern moors which he has illustrated in his powerful water-colour drawings.

Of our late distinguished landscape-painter, it is more difficult to know what to say, in reviewing an exhibition of his collected works. While we observed that Creswick suffers by immediate juxtaposition with Phillip's pictures, it may be doubted whether the collection of his pictures in a separate apartment would not have exposed him to a disadvantage of another kind, resulting from their comparative sameness of tone and treatment. There is, in fact, scarcely enough in Creswick to sustain our interest through a large number of his works. That there is a beautiful feeling in nearly all of them is unquestionable; the reason they do not affect us more we take to be the lack of what may be called intensity of aim in any direction. He seldom rises to the poetry of landscape, to any expression of its metaphysical sense and beauty; the interest of his pictures is mostly realistic, and yet it is not realistic enough to impress us powerfully from that side. This is what causes the comparative failure in effect of such landscapes as "A Place to Remember" (1,197) and "England" (1,209). The latter is a realistic representation of an every-day English country scene; but, for a realistic representation, the tone and texture of foreground, water, and trees is not sufficiently wrought out and discriminated. It is possible to affect the mind strongly by such minutely finished realistic study as Brett's "Among the Granite Boulders," in the Academy, or by such a powerful grasp of the broader elements of light, shadow, and tone in landscape as is to be seen in the magnificent works by Dupré and Corot at present in Old Bond-street; or by such comprehensive conventionalism as that of Cox and De Wint. But it is not possible to do so by representations which evade the ultimate range in both directions, and which are a compromise between poetry and realism. And this is the case with a large majority of Creswick's works. In "A Place to Remember," the details of colour and tone are subordinated to the general effect; a system adopted by Turner in many of his grandest works,—but then with Turner the general effect is always broad and powerful enough to compensate for this; with Creswick it is not so. That he could on occasion rise to the poetry of nature is evident from such works as "Evening" (1,390), and, so far as composition is concerned, "On the Clyde" (1,248), and "On the Greta" (1,260), two of his most individual works as to motive and tone. But it is equally certain that he did not often rise to it; and a majority of his pictures convey the idea of being landscapes composed according to a rule, and marked by a mannerism of treatment which is broad indeed, but is not the less a mannerism, evident enough when a number of his works are brought together; which, indeed, extends itself in some degree to details, as in the "inevitable dog" with his tail on one side, which forms a foreground object in so many of his pictures. The works of Creswick, in short, are monuments of a very refined taste, a great love of the natural scenery of England, and a power of embodying very pleasant reminiscences of its quieter and milder aspects. But this does not make a great landscape-painter; and the reputation of Creswick must be held to be rather impaired than enhanced by this collected exhibition of his works.

The Development of Persia. — Baron Reuter, says the *Echo*, has obtained great powers for the development of Persia. To him belongs the power of making railways, of remitting import duties, of mining [and utilising the forests], of making canals, a bank, gas-works, telegraphs, posts, &c., &c. We can hardly see, indeed, what is left to the Shah. We should be very sorry to lose Baron—we had almost written Shah—Reuter; we hope he will administer the realm of Persia from the capital of the country upon which his energy has already conferred much benefit, and in which his name is a household word.

LONDON GOVERNMENT.

AN influential deputation was introduced to Mr. Bruce, Home Secretary, on Saturday last, by Lord Ebury, with the view of renewing the interest felt by the Government in the great question of Metropolitan Government. Lord Napier and Ettrick followed, and the Lord Provost of Glasgow afterwards gave some interesting particulars of the improvements which had been effected in his city. Mr. J. A. Storr spoke of the neglect experienced by the lower classes for want of a central body; and Mr. James Beal presented a memorial signed by 700 owners of property in London, and reminded Mr. Bruce that the Administration were really pledged to deal with the question.

Mr. Bruce, in his reply, fully admitted this, and regretted that the opportunity had not yet occurred. The Government considered that when the question was taken in hand it should be the leading question of the Session. The question was novel, for it was one of the creation of a municipality which would constitute a government in itself of great importance; and the institution for the first time of a municipality for a city of more than three millions of people,—a municipality which should fairly represent the intelligence and wealth of London,—was a work of no ordinary character. This would be an institution of immense power, if it fairly represented London, and it would be in the highest degree unwise not to create a body equal to the task. Of course, there would be difficult questions, and matters of great anxiety, and the subject could not be dealt with by Parliament without ample time being given. The Government had not yet found the time to make this a foremost question of the Session, but he was not without hope that it might be made the first measure of the next Session, for he was bound to say that he did not know of any other more important subject which could arise.

Much credit is due to Mr. Beal for continued perseverance.

THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.

THE rotunda of the Exhibition building in Vienna is over 240 ft. high; each pillar supporting the heavy ceiling is large enough to contain a small summer-house. Seen from the floor, people in the first gallery appear like dwarfs; the Victories decorating the panels of the jute lining of the ceiling, which, seen from below, appear like half-grown girls, are in reality figures 21 ft. long, and are consequently four times the natural size. During the opening ceremonies, at the moment when the imperial and princely personages made their appearance, over 7,000 persons were assembled in the rotunda, but notwithstanding this, there were empty spaces of from 120 ft. to 180 ft. long, and 30 ft. to 36 ft. wide. The colossal lion, sent for exhibition by a Parisian firm, which, with the pedestal, is of the height of a middling-sized house, does not look at all imposing, but has merely the appearance of having been expressly made for the decoration of the rotunda. The extraordinary dimensions of the greater, and those of the smaller, lantern, as well as the imposing light arcades with the gigantic windows, all of which must be seen to be appreciated, are sufficient reasons for the fact that, even during rainy weather, it is so light in the rotunda that pencil-notes may be read easily, and without straining the eyesight. With all this grandeur, these gigantic proportions have no heavy and oppressive effect.

At the dinner given to the British exhibitors, Mr. Scott Russell, when his health was drunk, claimed a tribute of admiration and gratitude for his colleagues, Herr Engert, the engineer, and Herr Hasenhauer, the architect. When everybody had said his building would tumble down, Engert made it solid as a rock; and when everybody declared it hideous, Hasenhauer stepped in and made it beautiful.

At present, things do not look very bright in Vienna, either inside the Exhibition or out. The foolish inhabitants, by putting on preposterous prices, have aided other less avoidable causes in frightening strangers and keeping them away. Gradually, however, we have little doubt, the attractiveness of the Exhibition will overcome these obstacles. A great mistake, however, has been made at starting.

The house of the British Commission, a corrugated iron building, has been fitted up in charming style by the wise liberality of various manufacturers and decorators. Behind this is the "Exhibitors' Club-room," a building constructed by Mr. Hemming, and for which the British exhibitors have to thank the private liberality of the Commissioners, who subscribed to pay for its erection, out of their own pockets, as they have done in many other cases. The lavatories are the work of Mr. Jennings, and excite as much admiration amongst foreign visitors as any part of the Commission House. An Imperial personage who inspected them, observed, on leaving the Prince's lavatory, every detail of which is really admirable, "It is in arrangements like these that the English are unapproachable by any other people—ils sont absolument sans rivaux à l'égard de tout ce qui concerne le confort et la propreté." The handsome iron railing environing the whole of the Commissioners' domain has been presented by the Coalbrook Dale Company.

EDINBURGH ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

THE closing meeting of this Association was held in the Rooms, 37, George-street, on Wednesday evening, the 14th inst., the president (Mr. John Paterson) in the chair. After the admission of new members and the consideration of financial and other arrangements of the council, the following office-bearers for next session were elected:—Mr. John Bryce, as president; the retiring president and Mr. Thomas Henderson, vice-presidents; Messrs. Dick, Heron, Macpherson, and Somerville, members of the council, in room of those retiring.

The secretary reported that fifty-six new members had joined the Association during the session, and a valuable addition of books had been made to the library, including gifts of their works from Mr. Fergusson and Mr. Sharpe, also donations of books, drawings, and casts from friends interested in the Association, among them a number of original drawings and trial sketches of the Scott Monument, by Kemp.

The president then read his valedictory address, in the course of which he congratulated the members on the number of papers read and the interest which had been maintained throughout the session. The remarkable circumstance of the restoration of one cathedral and the fixing of the design of another for this city in one year was interesting to them, showing an advance of the public taste which promised well for the future prospects of architecture.

Mr. Shiells moved, and Mr. Henderson seconded, a vote of thanks to the president for his address, and votes of thanks were also accorded to the retiring office-bearers.

GUNTHORPE BRIDGE, NOTTINGHAM.

THE foundation-stone of a long-desired bridge, to connect the villages of South Notts, has been laid. This bridge is situate at Gunthorpe and East Bridgeford, about half-way between the Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and the bridge over the Trent at Newark, there being at present no intermediate bridge between those two points in the river. The bridge is being built by a private company, composed of the principal landowners, gentry, and farmers of the neighbourhood.

The construction of the bridge is simple, and will afford a good example of a cheap bridge, considering the great width of the river and its liability to floods, on a very large scale.

The abutments will be of stone, carried down to the red rocks and marls which underlie the bed of the river, and will rest upon a concrete foundation. The stone used is to a large extent derived from the old Trent Bridge, Nottingham, which has lately been taken down and removed by Mr. Smart, the contractor for the Gunthorpe Bridge. Much of the old stone has been sold for the restoration of churches and other similar work, and has been brought in most opportunely for this new bridge, it being of a character suitable for bridge building.

The approaches to the abutments from the roads on both sides of the river will be earthwork embankments, pitched with stone, and properly fenced. All the rest of the bridge will be of iron. The total span of the bridge between the abutments is 350 ft., and this large opening is crossed, in the first place, by a pair of iron girders, 100 ft. span, on the bowstring girder principle, resting on the north abutment at one end, and on a pair of cast-iron cylinders at the other. These cylinders are each 6 ft. in diameter, sunk into the rock in the deepest part of the stream, and filled with Portland cement concrete. After this are five other pairs of iron girders, each of a length or span of 50 ft., making, with the first bay, a total length or waterway of 350 ft. These latter girders are supported by cast-iron piles or columns. The lower parts of them are 2 ft. in diameter, and screwed through the gravel bed of the river into the rock. The upper parts are 14 in. in diameter, and are braced together transversely with wrought-iron struts and girders. All the girders are formed of wrought iron, and so secured together as to form a continuous girder, bolted down fast to the large 6 ft. cylinders, and lying loosely upon friction rollers, fixed to the upper ends of the inrermediate pile-supports, and upon the stone abutments. The roadway is formed of two layers of bitumenised timber, bolted down to transverse wrought-iron girders, which are riveted up at both ends to the horizontal main girders. The bridge has been designed by Mr. M. O. Tarbotton, M.Inst.C.E., who has been the consulting engineer to the company from the commencement. The resident superintendent of the works is Mr. Phillips, of Carnarvon. Mr. W. Smart is the contractor for the masonry.

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HIGH-LEVEL RAILWAY STATION, CRYSTAL PALACE.

A NEW entrance to the High-level Station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company has been for some months in progress, and will be opened to the public in about a fortnight. The entrance is from the Farquhar-road, by a flight of steps, leading to a light iron bridge. This is covered by a galvanised iron roof, and the whole forms an important addition to this extensive terminus, which may now be said to be equal to any local station in the completeness of its arrangements. The new entrance will prove a great boon to the residents in the Farquhar and other roads on the south side.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

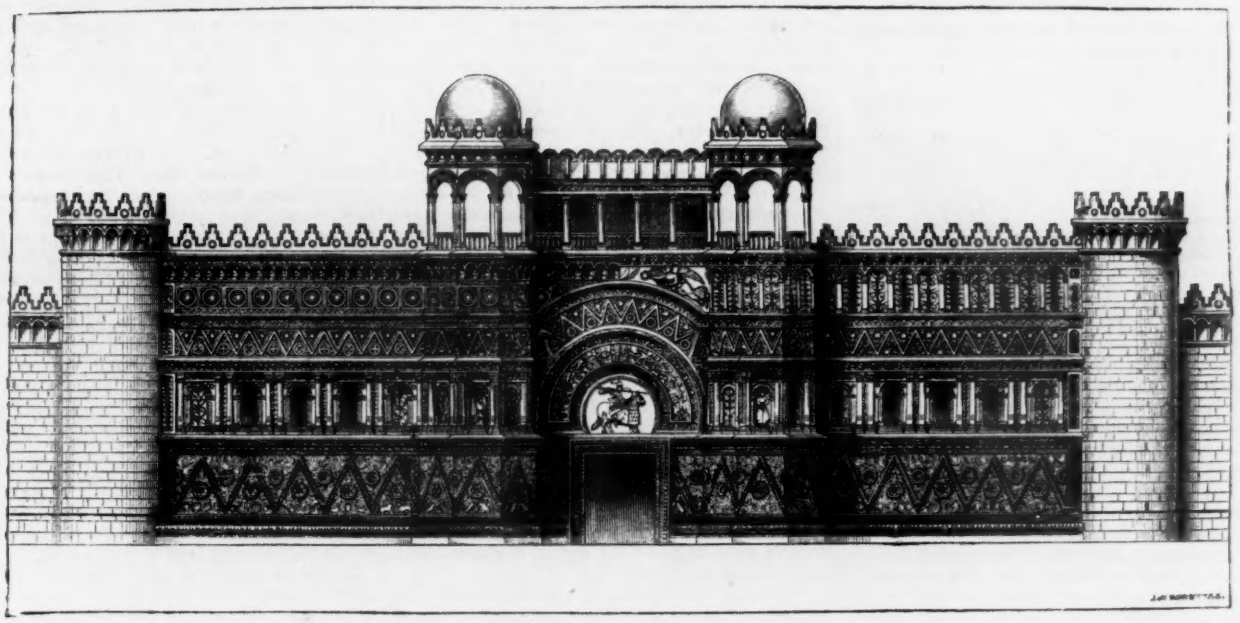
AN election of four pensioners (two men and two women) on the funds of this institution took place on Thursday, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, the president, Mr. Edwin Lawrence (Lawrence Bros.), in the chair. There were eleven candidates—four men and seven women. There were eight female candidates up till within the last few days, but one of them (Mrs. Ann Williams) is dead. The poll opened at twelve o'clock, and closed at three p.m; when the scrutineers (Messrs. Stirling & Hall) announced the result of the voting to be as follows:—Males—Francis Sandon (7th application), 2,378; Daniel Thomas (6th application), 1,186; Richard Grove (1st application), 112; John Thomas (1st application), 940. Females—Elizabeth Trevethan (6th application), 2,656; Eliza Lambert (5th application), 1,720; Arabella Hambrook (4th application), 3,153; Sarah E. Bear (4th application), 625; Elizabeth Silcock (2nd application), 2,752; Jane Rumens (1st application), 1,282; A. M. Williams (1st application), 618.

The chairman therefore declared the successful candidates to be:—Francis Sandon, Daniel Thomas, Arabella Hambrook, and Elizabeth Silcock. This makes a total of forty-seven pensioners now on the funds of the institution, twenty men and twenty-seven women; the males receiving 25*l.* and the females 20*l.* a year.

Votes of thanks were passed to the president, the scrutineers, the treasurer (Mr. George Plucknett, of the firm of Cubitt & Co.), and the secretary (Mr. A. G. Harris), for the interest they severally take in the welfare of the Institution; and the president expressed his regret that Mrs. Trevethan was unsuccessful, it being her sixth application. He trusted that she would be successful at the next election, which does not take place, however, till six months hence.

Check to the Tramway System.—The Select Committee on Metropolitan Tramways have refused their sanction to the laying down of tramways in Marylebone-road, Euston-road, George-street, Tottenham Court-road, and Farringdon-road. The committee have sanctioned a line over Westminster Bridge, passing, by way of the Thames Embankment, to a terminus in Whitehall-place.

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE DEAD SEA.*



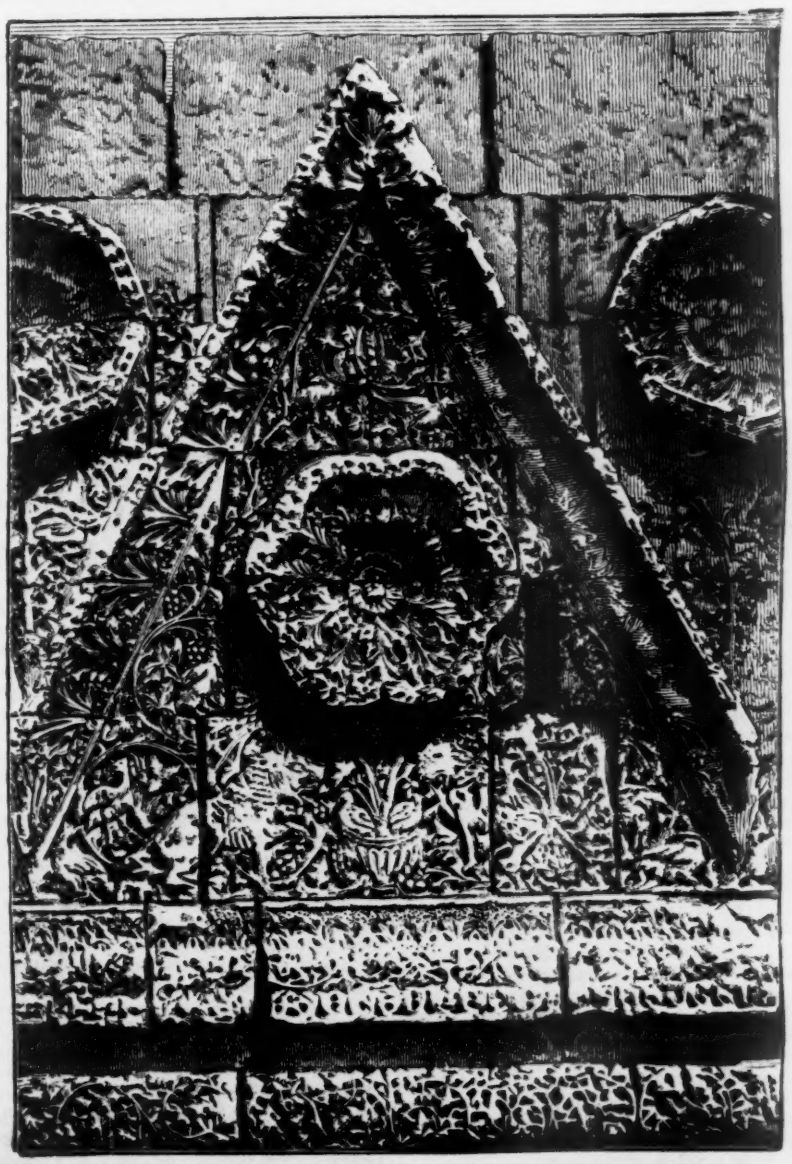
Façade of the Palace at Mashita, Restored by Mr. James Fergusson.

A NEW MASONIC HALL IN CAMBERWELL.

A COMPANY of Freemasons has been formed for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic hall in Camberwell, specially adapted to the requirements of the craft, in connexion with the lodges of the south metropolitan district; and the plans of the building also include a large hall for the general use of the public when it is not engaged for Masonic purposes. A favourable site has been secured for the erection of the building, in the Camberwell New Road, between the post-office and county-court, close to the station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company. The site possesses a frontage of about 70 ft., with a depth of 150 ft. The plans have been prepared by a well-known architect, and member of the craft.

The front of the building, in Camberwell New-road, will be of red brick, faced with stone dressings. The large hall will be approached by a corridor leading from the vestibule. It will be 54 ft. in length by 37 ft. in width, and at one end will have a raised platform, and at the back of this a small room, where there will be every accommodation for dressing, so that the hall will be well adapted for dramatic performances, concerts, and other entertainments of a similar character. The lodge-room, which is 28 ft. by 22 ft., will be fitted in the most approved Masonic style, and in strict accordance with the rules of the craft. In communication with the lodge-room there will be a reading-room, 18 ft. by 13 ft., fitted with a library, and well supplied with newspapers and magazines. On the opposite side of the building there will be a dining-room, 32 ft. by 18 ft., in connexion with which there will be a Board-room, 19 ft. by 12 ft., for the transaction of purely Masonic business. The basement story will contain the modern cooking appliances, as well as a range of wine-cellars and larders. The hall will be capable of accommodating about 700 persons, and the estimated cost of the building is about 3,000*l*.

The Newspaper Press Fund.—The dinner on Saturday, the 17th instant, in aid of this valuable Institution was a great success in every way. Mr. J. A. Froude, M.A., who presided, made an admirable speech, and the contributions from the 210 gentlemen who supported him on the occasion, amounted to something over 1,200*l*. The other speakers were the Hon. E. Ashley, Col. Birchall, Lord Houghton, Mr. A. Trollope, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. Newdegate, M.P., Sir Erskine Perry, Mr. Godwin, and Sir Julius Benedict. Considerable prominence was given to a concert in the course of the entertainment, in which Mr. Maybrick and Miss Blanche Cole particularly distinguished themselves.



One Compartment of Western Octagon Tower of the Persian Palace at Mashita.

* See p. 398, *ante*.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND NEW LAWS: ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

AT the annual general meeting the following office-bearers were elected:—

President.—Sir G. Gilbert Scott, R.A.

Vice-Presidents.—Messrs. Horace Jones, John Gibson, and G. Vulliamy.

Ordinary Members of Council.—Messrs. G. Aitchison, B.A.; J. Belcher, T. Talbot Bury, T. C. Clarke, H. Dawson, C. H. Cooke, E. H. Martineau, Harry Oliver, W. Papworth, E. A. Grüning, W. M. Teulon, R. J. Withers; and W. M. Fawcett, M.A., E. G. Paley, E. Salomons, country members.

Honorary Secretary.—Mr. F. P. Cockerell (foreign correspondence).

Secretary.—Mr. C. L. Eastlake.

Auditors.—Messrs. Joseph Jennings, Fellow, and Thomas Morris, Associate.

Hon. Treasurer and Banker.—Sir W. R. Farquhar.

Hon. Solicitor.—Mr. F. Ouvry.

Attendance of Past Vice-Presidents at Council. The following resolution was come to:—"That the council be empowered to invite past vice-presidents of the Institute to attend the meetings of the council, and to take part in the deliberations, but without a vote."

In reference to the proposed grant in aid of the art classes, which the committee of management have been compelled to abandon for the present, it was explained that the classes, if resumed, would be conducted on a different system, and that no further application would be made for pecuniary assistance from the Institute. On this understanding it was resolved "that the sum of 30*l.* be granted out of the funds of the Institute, towards liquidating the liabilities incurred by the art classes committee in their endeavour to carry out the scheme originally proposed."

An annual budget is to be prepared and circulated previously to each annual general meeting.

A dinner (for architects and amateurs of architecture) is to take place at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday, June 21st, Sir Gilbert Scott in the chair.

THE WANT OF ART CULTURE.*

To those who look on art as the embodiment of a principle which is deepest in our nature—as the grand medium by which the sublimest ideas and most exquisite sensations are conveyed to us, and through which we hear most distinctly the eternal truths which have their archetype in nature, and their answering chords in the human soul—the full recognition by the authorities of Liverpool of its dignity and value, and the successful revival of the annual exhibition after so long a slumber, will appear as an important event, more especially if they consider that art-education is the great mental want of the town, and that there is, perhaps, no place in the civilised world that needs its refining and elevating influence more. "Indeed!" I fancy some one exclaiming, "Liverpool in especial need of a refining and elevating influence—Liverpool, the second city in the empire, and so renowned for her progress from almost nothing, within the memory of man?" Yes, I repeat it—there is no place that needs the spiritualising influence of art more than Liverpool. The progress for which she is remarkable has been a material, not an intellectual progress; and her chief features at this hour, despite the efforts of Roscoe and others to educate and intellectualise her, are not her literary or scientific institutions, but her commercial. This is stamped upon her form and aspect, as is a low, unintellectual character of a man on his head and face; and may be seen from an external view of the town as you approach it from a distance, or walk through its chief thoroughfares.

Such a view shows at once that the chief features of Liverpool are those generated by her commercial development, viz., her docks and river-wall, her warehouses, enormous custom-house, railway sheds and hotels, and a thousand other objects of great utility: these are the material embodiments of her yearnings and desires—the symbols and expression of her most earnest aspirations; her heart and soul are in them, her life-blood flows through them, and they are among the wonders of the world.

Of London, the most remarkable building or architectural group in the distant view is St. Paul's Cathedral; in Paris it is the Church of St. Geneviève or Notre Dame; in Rome it is St. Peter's and the Vatican; in Venice and Florence and Pisa it is some church or palace or baptistery; in Spanish and German cities it is cathedrals, as, indeed, is generally the case at home; in Constantinople and Mahommedan lands the most remarkable buildings are either mosques or tombs, and even in China and Japan they are pagodas. But in Liverpool, unlike all other places I can recollect, the chief features are commercial and municipal edifices—custom-house, town-hall, exchange, public offices, blocks of mercantile houses, and last, but not least, lines of warehouses, which form a sort of western wall to the town, and which, for size, had they been built on the banks of the Nile instead of the Mersey, would have dwarfed the Pyramids. A church dome or two and a few spires are visible enough, but they are nothing compared with those objects I have named, and to which may be added the tall chimneys of manufacturing works, which, of all objects that break the sky-line and soar into the welkin, are the most remarkable. By these the spires are not only rivalled, they are totally eclipsed in dignity and power. I could point to some of these—to one, more especially, in the neighbourhood of Vauxhall-road—which must raise greater emotions in most minds than any of our steeples or monumental erections.

We are in the nineteenth century in regard to physical science and to literature; and in regard to some other things perhaps in the twentieth; but in art we are in the tenth; nay, there were cities in Italy, if not throughout the Continent, that were in a much better condition with respect to art in the tenth and eleventh centuries than what we are now in; and there was no place of the population and importance of Liverpool, at any period either in the ancient or modern world, in this state. We consider ourselves in the zenith of civilisation; but there were communities not far removed from the time called the Nadir of the Human Mind in the West—the darkest point of the period during which took place what modern philosophy has termed the sleep of the human intellect—in which art developed itself, and, in spite, not only of the general ignorance, but of actual persecution of art by the iconoclastic rulers of the Eastern Roman Empire, under the belief of its corrupting Christianity. In the eighth century, under the auspices of the Popes and of Charlemagne, great stir and progress were made in the arts, which exhibited the germs of those original and sublime conceptions that distinguish the schools of the Middle Ages and the sixteenth century.

Bear in mind that the soil from which sprang these great schools must have been, not merely the love of art in a few isolated artists—men before their age,—but the love of art in the people, and the interest they felt and manifested in art matters. What must this interest have been in Florence in the thirteenth century when the people walked in procession to conduct Cimabue's picture of the "Madonna" to its place in the Church of Sta. Maria Novella, where it was afterwards visited by Charles of Anjou, and with such rejoicings that, says tradition, they changed the name of the street to *Borro Allegri* (Merry Borough)? How fertile must the mental soil have become a generation or so later, when it is said that pictures painted by Giotto in different cities of Italy became the seeds of so many schools of painters? So arose some of the greatest schools the world ever saw. There was more art-life and art-stirring even among the people of the old city of Cologne, remote from Roman traditions, and not long after the irruption of the barbarians upon the Roman empire, than we find among us at this day. About a thousand years ago an early German or Germano-Christian School of Painting arose there, and continued distinct till the thirteenth century—a school with which the contemporary Italian and Byzantine Schools, it is said, would not bear comparison.

It is true we have the highest form of art in the highest form of literature in our libraries,—I mean that eldest sister of painting and sculpture, poetry, which is but the same spirit of the beautiful in our life—the same expression of human affections, sorrows, and aspirations breathed through another vehicle; but it must be confessed that the poet on canvas or in marble is a more interesting teacher to the general mass of mankind than the poet in song: perhaps he is the most interesting and attractive of all. Art is more tangible than poetry, and better adapted to act upon the ordinary mind, and will operate upon minds incapable of following the flights of the poet. Painting and sculpture are probably necessary as stepping-stones, along with music and architecture, to lead the mind to the highest form of art poetry, and prepare it for her highest ministrations. And, if the mission of art is not superseded by poetry, it cannot be by any other branch of literature or by physical science, which latter alone, and without the aid of art, leaves a greater number of faculties in the mind unexercised. Besides, its influence comes lower down—reaches a lower stratum of society, than the teachings of philosophy; and, if it did not, it would still be an indispensable means of education, considered in its full significance: it appeals to and refines the lowest, and is necessary to the highest ranks, which, without it, would remain comparatively rude and savage. The fine arts have been truly said to be to a highly commercial and opulent state of society what chivalry was to the feudal system: they wear down its asperities, correct its selfishness, relieve the sternness of its action, enliven the dulness of its repose, and mitigate the fierceness of its enjoyments. Where the arts are well understood fashion cannot be so monstrous or fantastic as where they exert no salutary dominion over the fond love of variety.

I feel it would be only just to say that the desideratum I am complaining of is not confined to the good old town of Liverpool: deficiency in art-culture on the part of the public, including the highest ranks, is the great characteristic of our country, which has been behind all her Continental neighbours,—not only Italy, but France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Holland,—in her patronage of and devotion to art,—behind all the great European nations except Russia; though her intellectual soil is rich enough to produce individual men who might compare with Michelangelo or Raffaelle. In fact, the union of art and philosophy so much boasted of in the schools of ancient Greece and modern Italy, and which is essential to the highest prosperity in both, has yet to be consummated in England. Many of our highest names in literature have been deficient in art-culture and ignorant of art.

Man, the Scripture tells us, walketh in a vain shadow and disquieteth himself in vain; which he does when in search, for their own sakes, of wealth, of fame, of power; more especially when he employs his entire faculties upon them. But he walks in no vain shadow, I think, when in search of the beautiful, either in nature or art; all is not vanity and vexation of spirit under the sun to him who can hold communion with these, and enjoy their simplest offerings. Of no branch of art,—painting, sculpture, architecture, poetry, music,—can we grow weary. These, inasmuch as they partake of the infinitude of nature, on which they are based, can never lose their charm while we are true to them, or pursue them in a right spirit, in earnest love and confidence. The pleasures they bestow are the most exalted, as well as the most enduring, of all that was ever called pleasures in this world; which neither disappear with the bloom of youth, change with the vicissitudes of fortune, nor sink with our frail bodies to the dust. The bright dreams of youth, of an Eden and Elysium laid up in the womb of the future, must fade into the clay hamlets of reality; but those reared by imagination from the bright pages of truth and nature are a perpetual solace to the heart, and spread a continuous and pervading charm over the whole of existence. They are the great objects to which all else should be made subservient; they are not means or an instrument of life, but an object of life with something divine in them. There never was a true artist but what might say, at the close of life, in reference to art, what Coleridge said of poetry, that it had been to him its own exceeding great reward; that it had soothed his afflictions, multiplied and refined his enjoyments, and given him the habit of seeking the good and the beautiful in all that met and surrounded him. Nay, it is worthy of note that, while many favourite pursuits of men,—as shooting, hunting, fishing, horse-racing,—are unworthy of men, since they involve the torturing and destroying of creatures which have as much right to life and happiness as ourselves, and which, as lords of creation, we are bound to protect, the pursuits of art, as of literature, are worthy not only of men, but of the greatest men,—of superhuman beings, of angels, of demigods; and it is not difficult to conceive that such pursuits will be renewed in a future and higher state of existence.

* From a paper on "The Late Revival of Art in Liverpool," by Mr. Samuel Huggins, read at a meeting of the Liverpool Architectural Society.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE.*

ONE of the most prominent defects in our present system of working is the want of some united action between us. Every architect now doeth whatsoever seemeth good in his own eyes (provided his clients allow him) in the matter of style, and too often indulges in what is fantastic and eccentric, in the hope of being original. In the case of men of great ability, this unlimited freedom is not so objectionable, as they have the faculty of seeing what is appropriate and in harmony with the spirit of their designs. With less skilful designers, however, the results arising from this condition of things are too often glaringly crude and incongruous. Now, if some recognised agreement existed amongst us as to the best path to pursue, this condition of things could not exist, and we might entertain a reasonsonable hope of seeing a general movement of progress all along the line, and not, as at present, fitfully and in various directions. Although it is undesirable, if indeed it be possible, that the individuality of the designer should be lost; nevertheless, there exists among certain schools a pernicious habit of placing the artist before the art in the case of a few favourite men. This is manifestly wrong: the elevation of the art should be our first consideration, the individuality of the artist second. We need, therefore, I think, some generally accepted code of laws and precedents to govern and direct our efforts. Let us, for example, agree upon some particular phase of Mediæval art; and taking that as our point of departure, extend and develop it until it becomes capable of answering all the numerous requirements of our time. Let us, as the style expands, engraft upon it such features from other sources as we may see fit, carefully keeping them subordinate to, and in harmony with, the ruling principles of the master style.

There is another point in which the Gothic school runs into extreme, and that is in the quality of what I must term "quaintness" for want of a better title. That this quality is possessed in a very large degree by most Mediæval buildings, is unquestionable—indeed, appears to be inseparable from them. It must be remembered, however, that this is mostly the result of accident and of the mellowing effects of time; and that, do what we will, we can never impart to our new buildings the picturesqueness of the old work.

Quaintness has a constant tendency to degenerate into mere ugliness, and it is to be feared there is much truth in the accusation that there exists an incredible worship of the ugly amongst us. Just at present, too, to the best of my judgment, this strange mania is rather on the increase than otherwise. The "old china style," if I may so term it, is spreading amongst us, and we see men search every quarter of the globe for examples of quaint, curious, and ugly objects to copy from. The present attempts to introduce the long, square-headed windows and broken pedimented gables of Queen Anne's reign, the lumpy furniture of the Cromwellian era, and the ingenious but semi-barbaric ornament of China and Japan, indicate the extravagant lengths to which a certain school is inclined to go in its search after novelty.

While the progress of the revived style has been, on the whole, continuous and well marked with respect to ecclesiastical architecture, it must be confessed that we have not made nearly so much advance with our secular buildings. Here we are more left to our own resources, not having so many examples to guide us, and being obliged to initiate buildings in the new style of a type and for purposes unknown in those more primitive times. In some of the country mansions recently erected, however, the style has been adapted to the requirements of the case with the utmost felicity. It is in our civic architecture that our failures have been most conspicuous. Too many of our hotels, railway stations, club-houses, &c., are but shells of the type of ordinary town-house, with a thin outward veneer of Gothic detail altogether wanting in the true sentiment of the style. It is here, too, that those vagaries of which we have been speaking are to be found in the greatest abundance, and where there is most need of some more settled and acknowledged art-authority to direct it.

In one very conspicuous instance our revived Gothic has not been found equal to the occasion. I allude, of course, to Mr. Street's designs for the new Law Courts. If ever there was a signal opportunity for displaying the capabilities of the style, this was the one; and I think I speak the general verdict of the profession when I say that the result is a failure. The building, if executed as designed, will be feeble and disjointed, lamentably wanting in that grandeur of conception and unity of parts which should characterise a great public edifice. I say this with regret, and with a high respect for Mr. Street's great talents, and for the eminent services he has rendered Mediæval art. Let us not, however, be too much discouraged by this failure: it does not prove that the revived Gothic is unsuited to modern wants, still less that it is worked out. I believe the style to be still young and full of vigour; but we must look around us and note our shortcomings well, so that we may rise through our very failures to higher things. The most urgent need of the style at present, then, appears to be more uniform and combined action on the part of its professors, guided by a recognised and accepted series of art-canons, with sufficient influence to curtail the vagaries and eccentricities that at present disfigure it. Thus we shall form a common platform on which to work in the development of that ideal architecture which earnest men strive for in the hope of seeing it realised in the fulness of time.

* From a paper read by Mr. W. M. Mitchell, at a meeting of the Architectural Association of Ireland. See p. 383, *ante*.

NOTES FROM AMERICA.

THE writer, a few years back, might have been seen attired in his broadcloth, neatly gloved, and with glossy hat, wending his way to Charing-cross, and anxiously looking for the omnibus to take him to his domicile, where a delicate meal had been prepared for his appetite. What a contrast! Now he is suitably attired in a good strong pair of grey woollen pants, with a warm woolly hat, and a stout heavy pea-jacket, booted in a manner worthy of O. Smith, late of the Adelphi, and accoutrements to match, viz., a good Spencer rifle, a revolver, and a tomahawk axe. His worldly goods consist of a blanket, sundry pairs of socks, and two shirts, home-made, and, what is more, never requiring any starch. These, done up in a knapsack, and safely strapped to his back, comprise his outfit for several months. His companions are of various nationalities. The boss surveyor is English by birth, Americanized by education; your humble servant is a pure unadulterated Cockney; the four chainmen seem to be half Dutch and half Irish; the cook is a French Canadian; and two others,—I do not think I could tell where they were born, for they speak the Canadian French, know a little German, and can "gab" the Indian tongue. So we set off with a couple of tents, a few iron pots for cooking, and our surveying-apparatus, and start for Kansas and Missouri,—places that have a tough name, but really do not deserve it. Both places are now rapidly filling up, and will eventually become important states in the American Union. Before I proceed further, perhaps a few words to intending settlers might not be amiss; for I have seen, and that with great pain, many heart-rending scenes of the useless class of my countrymen coming out as clerks, shopmen, &c., and who are looked upon and treated with a great deal of contempt. What is wanted, and will be sure to do well, are muscle, sinew, and a will to do hard laborious work. I have met colonies of poor wretches from various cities of the eastern states, who have come out with all sorts of murderous weapons, women with fancy dresses and gilded earrings, who have thought of taking up land as a sure road of heaping up "piles" of stamps (or money, as you English folks would say), but alas! with no knowledge of farming. Instead of that useless kind of *trash* (hard word, you say, but it is really used among the settlers), the things wanted are, agricultural implements, with a little ready cash, provisions to last for a few months, and a real good sound constitution: one which does not mind catching the ague, and can bear up even if it does have a touch of the malarial fever,—occurrences of no unusual character.

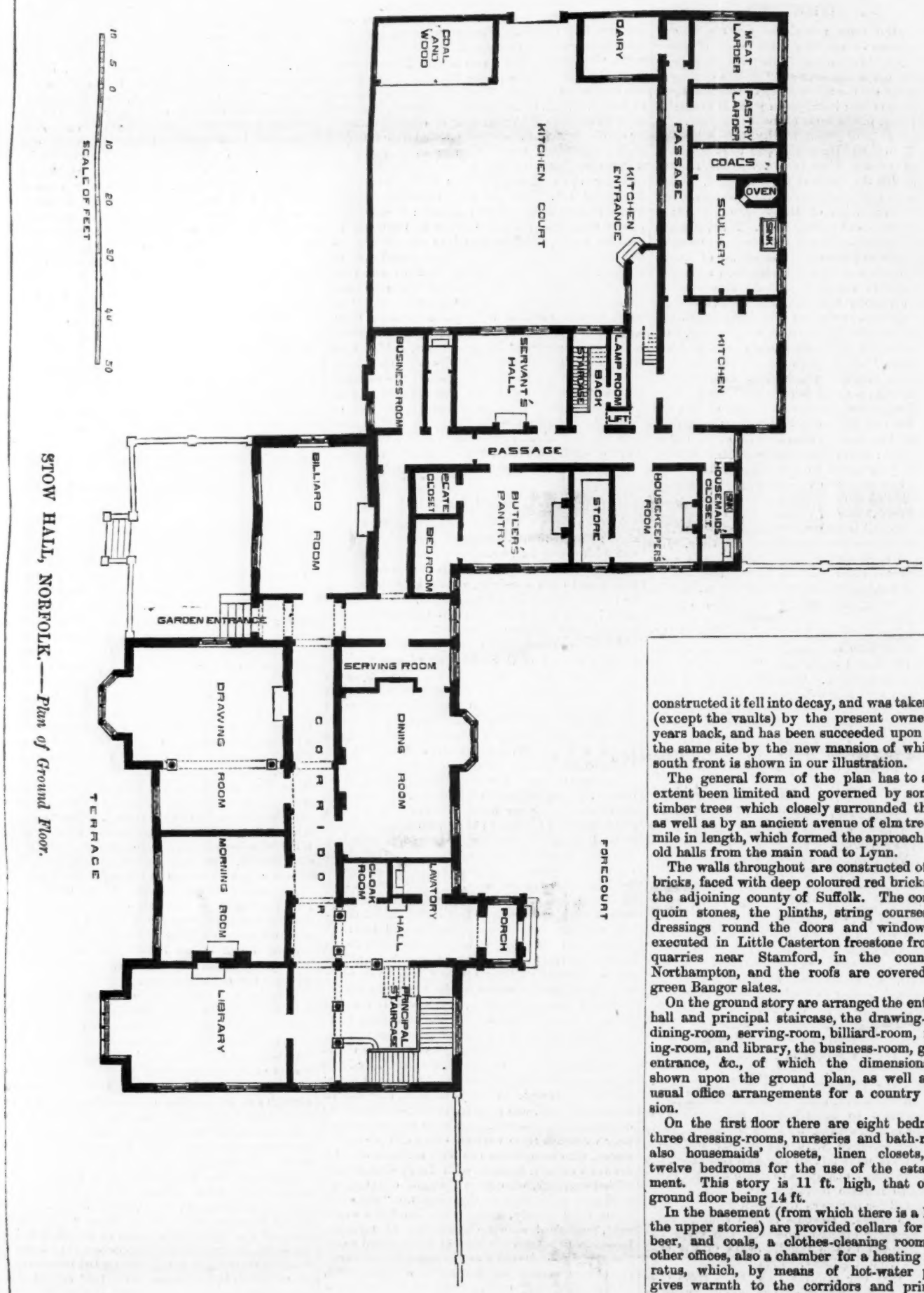
Kansas is a prairie country; thickly studded with buffalo herds, though settlers seem to be driving the animals further west. To read of the fearful exploits of a buffalo hunt (in my experience, which is limited), and to see one in reality, are two very different things. Killing a good stout, fiery buffalo with a Spencer rifle, is about the same sport as one would see in "fixing" a savage bull on Woking Common—a good deal of riding, lots of prancing, pawing, and bellowing, but with a good level aim, it is a great deal less excitement than what I was used, years back, to witness in Old Smithfield Market. The true Kansasian is a fine, noble, free-hearted fellow; his pride is his horse and his little "land claim." True, he is ignorant of books, knows nothing of a city life, but he thoroughly understands the country in which he lives and is a pretty good judge of character, and, for the information of a rowdy, is a dead shot. But a word as to the Kansas girl: reared on the borders, having never seen as many as fifty people together, and unknown to a "dry goods" (linendraper's) shopman, while her knowledge of the world scarcely reaches beyond the humble cabin and the surrounding prairie, her privileges and rights are to be truly happy, chew gum, and go barefooted. She never shudders or starts at the name of Indian, for she has been handled and caressed by the brawny arms of the "red brave" when a baby; and the howlings of the wolves and bellowing of the stampeding buffaloes are as familiar to her ears as "mother's songs." With all this rough-and-ready kind of life, there is a line where modesty commences, and must be respected. If her Jim is not in the way, she can herself sling an axe or sight a rifle with very little compunction or hesitation; so hunters and sportsmen know how to govern themselves accordingly.

You may travel for days in the prairie without the sight of a single tree, hill, or the appearance of a single human being. Now and then a herd of a hundred buffaloes tramping along the monotonous plain, shaking the earth like an earthquake, with their roaring and trumping; but occasionally a valley is seen, mostly between two hills, and then the sight of true border settlement is had to perfection,—the little log cabins here and there dotted in the perspective; the occupants toiling miles and miles away from a neighbouring settlement, in the hope of providing a home for their children (in many cases, it might truly be said, for their grandchildren). The sight of a surveying party is about as sensational an affair as a circus in a far-back country village. The news of their arrival spreads like wildfire; hospitality is offered; farmers, hunters, and scouts wait on you; and the tales of some of the early settlers are not only interesting, but show the hardships of a pioneer life,—the scalpings, murders, and robberies by the Indians making one shudder at the recital. The "scout" is an individual not to be passed over lightly. With the cunning of a detective, hardy in constitution, and the bravery of a lion, he ferrets out and traces up the Indian robbers, who go in largely for stealing horses and cattle. The profession is not an enviable one, and, making due allowance for a *little* exaggeration, it is in reality a calling most dangerous to life; for the crack of an Indian rifle may settle a knotty question of "lawful apprehension" without the aid of a judge.

Kansas and Missouri occasionally engage "Judge Lynch" to try and settle sundry little acts of abstraction, and the horse and cattle copers (*i.e.*, cattle-stealers) are generally taken to a free "full-dress necktie social." The border settlements are usually guarded by the United States cavalry and artillery, and the Indians just now, though not in Kansas or Missouri, are giving them a deal of trouble. Humanity desires them not to be killed and hunted like wild beasts,—the settlers go in straight for a general annihilation. The contrast with the Indians of Canada and those of the United States is so wide, that there must be a leakage somewhere in the governing powers of the United States, which should be repaired. The ministers, particularly those of the Episcopal Church of England (with the forms altered in accordance with the United States governing powers), declare the Indians can be civilised, but do away with post agents, &c. The settlers, on the other hand, declare them to be a cunning, lying, thieving, and murderous class of beings, who should be swept from the face of the earth.

QUERCUS.

The Columbia Fish Market Tramway Bill.—All opposition having been withdrawn against the scheme for the extension of the rails of the Great Eastern Railway into Columbia Market, the Bill will now proceed as an unopposed Bill of the Corporation of the City of London.



STOW HALL, NORFOLK.—Plan of Ground Floor.

STOW HALL, NORFOLK.

WE give a view and plan of the new mansion now being erected for Sir Thomas Hare, bart., on his estate, near Downham Market, Norfolk, from the designs of Mr. David Brandon. The first hall on record was built in 1589 by Mr. Nicholas Hare, and was a structure of considerable dimensions, the ground plan being in the form of the letter E, one commonly adopted at that period; it is also recorded that it cost 40,000*l*., a very large sum in those days.

This hall seems, from a letter to be found in the "Pastor Letters," to have become in his time, about 200 years later, in a very ruinous condition, and was taken down and replaced by a new hall; this building had but little architectural character, and not being substantially constructed it fell into decay, and was taken down (except the vaults) by the present owner some years back, and has been succeeded upon nearly the same site by the new mansion of which the south front is shown in our illustration.

The general form of the plan has to a great extent been limited and governed by some fine timber trees which closely surrounded the site, as well as by an ancient avenue of elm trees, one mile in length, which formed the approach to the old halls from the main road to Lynn.

The walls throughout are constructed of local bricks, faced with deep coloured red bricks from the adjoining county of Suffolk. The cornices, quoin stones, the plinths, string courses, and dressings round the doors and windows, are executed in Little Casterton freestone from the quarries near Stamford, in the county of Northampton, and the roofs are covered with green Bangor slates.

On the ground story are arranged the entrance hall and principal staircase, the drawing-room, dining-room, serving-room, billiard-room, morning-room, and library, the business-room, garden entrance, &c., of which the dimensions are shown upon the ground plan, as well as the usual office arrangements for a country mansion.

On the first floor there are eight bedrooms, three dressing-rooms, nurseries and bath-rooms, also housemaids' closets, linen closets, and twelve bedrooms for the use of the establishment. This story is 11 ft. high, that of the ground floor being 14 ft.

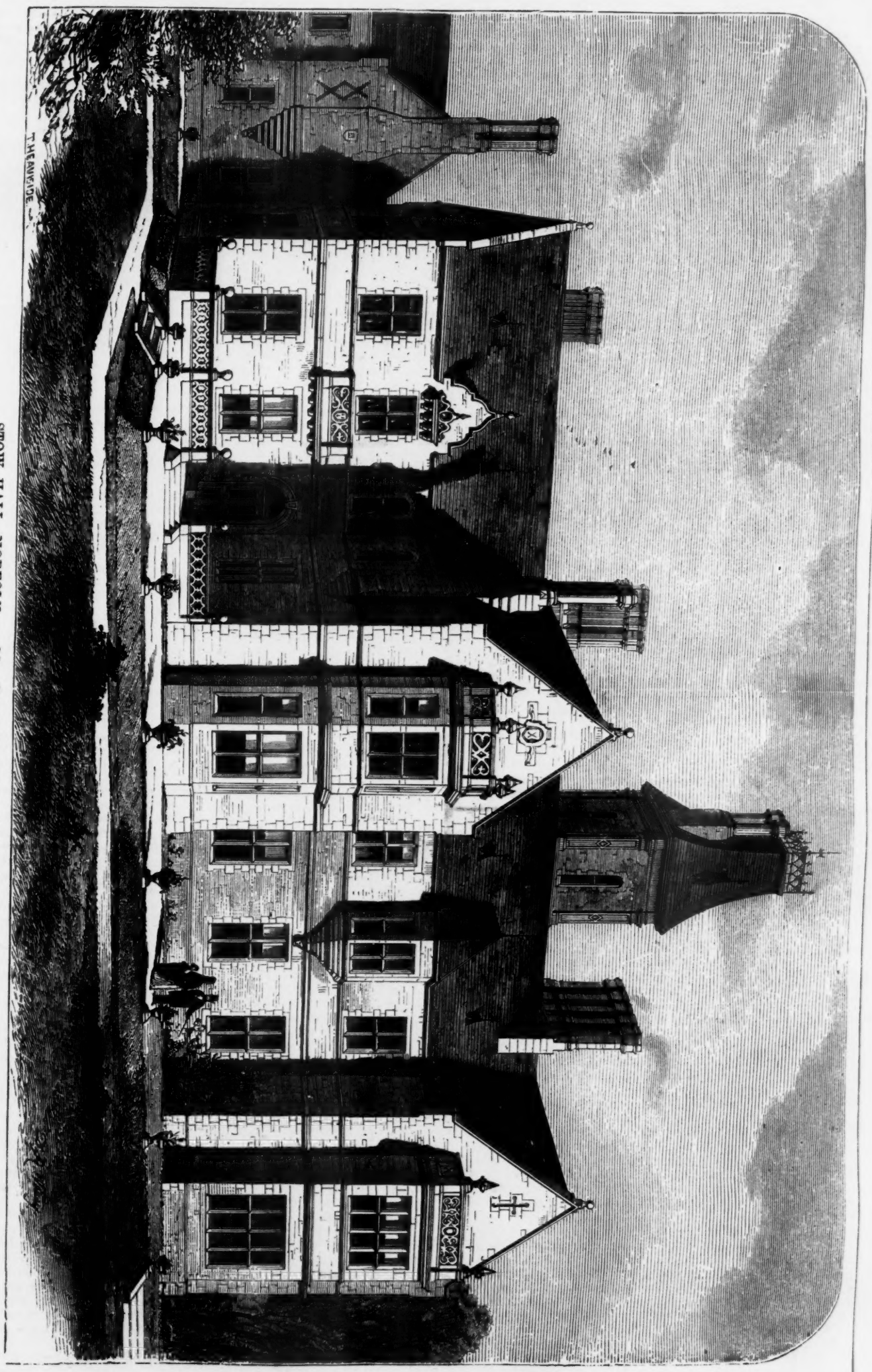
In the basement (from which there is a lift to the upper stories) are provided cellars for wine, beer, and coals, a clothes-cleaning room, and other offices, also a chamber for a heating apparatus, which, by means of hot-water pipes, gives warmth to the corridors and principal staircase, and from thence to the principal rooms, by means of ventilators in the skirtings.

The warming arrangements have been carried out by Messrs. Feetham & Co. of London.

The floors of the corridors throughout are of fireproof construction.

In the upper part of the tower, whence extensive views over the surrounding country can be obtained, are placed large cisterns for rain and well water, to supply the house and the fountains in the gardens.

The works are being carried out by Messrs. Trollope & Sons.



STOW HALL, NORFOLK.—MR. DAVID BRANDON, F.S.A., ARCHITECT.

FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION.

IN the course of the evidence given before the committee on the means of protecting the metropolis against conflagration (Society of Arts), Mr. William Swanton, of the metropolitan salvage corps, expressed the following opinions:—

Q.—What structural arrangements for large warehouses does your observation suggest as the best for the prevention of the spread of fires?

A.—I have never doubted the advantages of brick piers, groined brick arches, and concrete floors, as the best description of incombustible and fire-resisting construction for any building, especially those containing large bulks of produce and manufacture; still the space required for this kind of construction is such an objection that it is seldom met with except in vaults. The next best description of fireproof construction is that where, though the floors are supported by iron columns, these columns are filled in with concrete, and surrounded by the same material and cement, to a thickness of about 6 in., so that the protection afforded to the iron prevents its being affected by the heat to so great an extent as it otherwise would be, and if the joists are of T-iron, ordinary hoop-iron taking the place of old-fashioned laths, the space between the joists being filled in with concrete, though timber flooring may cover the whole. This I consider a thoroughly good and incombustible mode of building, and one which would prove fire-resisting to a very great extent, even in ordinary private dwellings. If the spaces between the joists were filled in with concrete, say 6 in. thick, instead of shavings and sawdust, as is now generally to be found, very much protection would be provided, and it would not only prevent a building burning so rapidly as is now the case, but at the same time it would allow far more opportunity for the inmates to escape than now, owing to the rapidity with which a building burns when once on fire.

Q.—What do you consider the best materials for the construction of staircases?

A.—The question as to what material staircases should be constructed of I have long since considered, and I cannot agree with many who approve of stone staircases, except for external purposes. Of course there are warehouses and other buildings where a massive stone staircase leads to landings in the centre of a block, on which are good iron doors leading to the various rooms or floors filled with goods, and perhaps occupied with workpeople, the entrance being from the street and ending at the roof. Nothing can be better than this kind of staircase, where it is perfectly independent of the floors and their contents, because the probability is that any of these floors might be burnt out, and the staircase by no means affected by the heat on account of the protection afforded to it by the iron door; at the same time I am strongly opposed to stone staircases under almost any other circumstances for internal purposes. And I fully believe that if the ordinary timber staircases, as at present constructed, were filled in with good concrete before the tread is fixed, they would form about the best and most fire-and-water-resisting description of staircase that has at present been devised, and would, in my opinion, be the next best to brickwork itself. I know well how nice a good stone staircase looks, and is for use, when no fire happens, but I also know the fearful consequences of a nice-looking stone staircase suddenly giving way without any warning when it is heated and water is thrown upon it in extinguishing a fire.

Q.—What do you consider the best materials for the construction of roofs?

A.—The best description of roofs I can conceive are those covered in with stout slate, with about 1 in. of fine concrete between the laths and the slate. This would not only resist any fire from an adjoining building, but would, under most circumstances, withstand any use to which the roofs might be subjected by firemen and others.

Q.—What precautions do you recommend as respects the flues of furnaces?

A.—I cannot conceive that any difference of opinion ought to exist as to heating furnaces, or the precautions necessary to avoid accidents by fire from them, so long as all timber is kept well clear of the heated parts, and properly-constructed flues only used. Furnaces are as safe as any other description of heating apparatus.

Q.—What precautions do you recommend as respects open fireplaces?

A.—So far as open fireplaces are concerned, there is no doubt that, with ordinary care, nothing can be more safe, and accidental fires should not occur from anything in respect of them, so long as the hearth-stones are not placed upon timber, and no such material is allowed within a reasonable distance of the fittings and flues; and no question ought to arise as to the advantage of open fireplaces in reference to ventilation over every other description of heating.

Q.—What precautions do you recommend as respects gas lights?

A.—Respecting gas and the risk of fire from its use, I have no doubt that it is the most safe mode of lighting, so long as proper care and attention are given to it. Having every light safely fixed, and properly protected from contact with any inflammable article near it, and having every room in which it is used fitted with a ventilator into the flue of such room, there need not be any apprehension on that head.

Q.—What do you mean by concrete?

A.—It may be made of many kinds of materials. What I refer to is that made with ordinary fine ballast and lime.

Q.—Would it not be better adapted to resist heat if made with clinkers or things of that kind, which had been burned?

A.—I am not so sure about that. It might be more binding, but I believe the small ballast I speak of would not be greatly affected by heat any more than that made of clinkers. It simply introduces the idea of using a new description of material we know little or nothing about, instead of using that which has been proved to answer the purpose so well.

Q.—What would be the effect of a great fire on concrete?

A.—The effect of fire on concrete is scarcely perceptible in ordinary fires, especially where the ceilings and floors consist of this material, but in seriously large fires it would, under great heat, split into irregular forms, but not until being nearly red-hot, and subject to the action of cold water being thrown upon it; even then the result cannot be compared to ordinary stone.

Colonel Beresford.—At the great fire at Cotton's Wharf it terminated in a floor in Alderman Humphrey's premises, termed Hay's Wharf. The floor was full of bamboo canes, which were burning with an intense heat, but it had no effect on the roof, which was filled in with concrete. The roof was perfectly lurid, but the fire did not pass it.

Q.—With regard to the construction of buildings, are there not some sandstones which will stand fire, and not split like granite?

A.—I do not think buildings constructed entirely of granite would be specially susceptible of fire beyond those of any other stone. I consider stone in general exceedingly objectionable, and inclined to split when a fire occurs; almost any description you can name.

Q.—It is said that in Paris, where, during the Communistic incendiarism, they had a good many fires, some of them, particularly that at the stables of the Omnibus Company, were stopped by asphalte. Is it a fact that there are two sorts of asphalte in use, the bituminous or inflammable, and one that is not inflammable—the Val de Travers?

A.—I believe it is difficult to find any asphalte that is not somewhat inflammable. I know of none; but I think a great deal of the immunity from fire which Paris enjoys is due to their system of building, and many other arrangements we have not in London. They have no hydrants, but almost every soldier understands extinguishing fires, so that there the means of putting out a fire at once are far preferable to ours in London, without taking into account the services rendered by the military generally in respect to fires. Then, again, in the buildings they use iron "winches," filled in with concrete, so that every floor is comparatively fireproof. As a rule, in English buildings, as the work progresses, the space between the flooring and the joists is made a sort of dust-hole, or receptacle for shavings, sawdust, &c., arising from the work; therefore, if once a fire happens, you have all the materials ready introduced and thoroughly prepared ready for a very rapid combustion.

Q.—Some time after the large fire at the City Flour Mills it was noticed that many of the iron joists were still in their places, not twisted. Do you know whether they were filled in with concrete, which had dropped out?

A.—They were, I know, fitted in with stone, not concrete. A great deal of the action of a fire upon iron materials of that kind depends upon the cubic contents of the building and the length of the iron in use. The shorter the iron the more likely is it to remain in its place without twisting. Had that building been divided into two, as it should have been, the action of the fire on the girders and rafters would have been very much less than has proved to be the result.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS.

ONE or two of the points made by Mr. T. Blashill, in his carefully-prepared paper on this subject, read at a recent meeting of the Architectural Association,* may perhaps with advantage be given in his own words:—

I.—*As to the System of Competitions generally.*

"No doubt, architectural competitions have been invented as a means of escape from the evils and uncertainties attending the distribution of patronage. A perfectly fair competition should ensure the selection of the best man in each particular case, and of course the best man would have a right to the employment. Now, judging by what we see in ordinary life, does the public want or expect to get in each case the best,—that is, the most able man? and has such a one a right to expect that each work shall, after proof of his superiority, be given to him? I believe nothing could be more monstrously absurd than the position into which such ideas would lead us.

In ordinary transactions between the professional man and his client, it is found convenient to treat the matter of remuneration as being fixed beforehand, the question being as to the quality of the services, which are always in a great measure uncertain, to be rendered in return for it. Now, a client does not seek out the greatest genius available; he goes to some one whom he knows, or whom a friend may have employed; to a neighbour, or to the nearest person of good repute. But he is almost certain to prefer before all these a person whom he has already himself employed, if even with something short of perfect satisfaction. It may be difficult to say how far he is influenced by the talent or the merit of the candidate, and how far by mere whim or liking, but everybody worth knowing is greatly influenced by the latter, and I believe the terms of confidence created by this mode of selection are on the whole beneficial to both parties, and to the work. They are certainly so far satisfactory, that people in general prefer to act upon grounds of preference rather than upon strict measure of capacity. They know that ordinary business is quite within the range of ordinary men, and they trust people whom they like and know to be fairly trained and practised.

Fancy a man making every fresh business transaction the occasion for a cold-blooded selection of the best man within reach, disregarding old associations,—honest, but perhaps ineffectual efforts to excel,—the struggles of moderate capacity,—the sentiment of neighbourhood,—in order to put his work into the hands of the brightest practitioner he can hear tell of, and getting ever such a little bit more for his money. You cannot imagine a more detestable animal than this, or one more likely to be robbed through thick and thin.

Now, a committee man will generally be allowed to have done his duty in his public capacity, if he does as well for his constituents in the matter of patronage as he would do for himself. There are, however, influences brought to bear which complicate this question. Privately a client might go to a friend, or the relation of a friend, and (blood being thicker than water), even a relation of his own, knowing nothing of his capacity, while one could not defend his acting in the same way in a public matter. But even in cases of the grossest favouritism or bribery, the check is not generally sought in any system of competition like our own, but in publicity if the nature of the transaction admits of it, and in the dangerous character of the business, if it is secret and corrupt. In any case a disappointed rival can have little right, except in his quality of ratepayer, to meddle in the matter." . . . . .

"I believe we shall never effect any improvement in our own condition, until we see the necessity of treating matters relating to architecture on the same principles as we would treat any other matter of business. Indeed, nothing but the firm conviction that all the world outside our own circle is in the wrong, can make it prudent to neglect this rule. By

* See p. 372, *ante*.

adopting it, we place ourselves in proper relation with the people with whom we have to deal; by neglecting it our position becomes exceptional and therefore false. We lay ourselves open to misconception and suspicion, and our conversation and literature become encumbered with complaints and accusations against our clients and our brethren, to an extent unparalleled in any other profession." . . . . . .

II.—*As to some Results of Competition not beneficial to Art.*

"We have seen ideas adopted which, from looking well on paper, have taken the public fancy, to a degree not at all warranted by their effect in actual execution,—ideas of the draughtsman merely as distinguished from those which are developed in the mind of one who has to study materials and construction, and to think of the purpose of each part of the building he has to design. I commend this question particularly to those who may advocate the competition system, because it is one somewhat difficult to decide; but it is worth our consideration that while in former times progress was made by study of buildings actually erected, we now study pictures of buildings never to be erected, and the effect of this must be prejudicial to that form of art which is practised by ourselves." . . . . . .

III.—*As to the Selection of Architects by Public Bodies.*

"Our public bodies have no idea of giving up their patronage, which, in the eyes of the worst of their members, is a legitimate source of influence, and in the eyes of the best of them is a duty which they are elected to *do*, and not to delegate to an assessor. Indeed, apart from competition, there is no doubt that our public bodies are able to choose their architects with as much fairness and discretion as they exercise in the choice of other persons whom they employ. Will any one say, for instance, that the Government, which can make peace or war, or select the Viceroy of India, could not be trusted to select the architects of the offices where the bookkeeping part of their business is conducted? And this applies with equal force to the case of a burial board, with their pair of cemetery chapels and lodge. Nepotism is an evil which the public understands and can guard against, so far as it wishes to do so; but nothing favours it so much as a competition in which the nephew can use in secret that influence which he would not venture to use openly. If, however, this system continues to prevail, we must still hear of people manœuvring for nominations to compete, with the subsequent finessing, and the canvassing of committee-men, and the squabbling over the award, till at length parties withdraw from the contest, some of them with reputations (or perhaps only tempers) so ruffled that they cannot settle down into their normal shape without letters and pamphlets more or less damaging to everybody concerned. Vastly more dignified, as it seems to me, is it to have a short and sharp quest after a job if you are younger, or to have the job come to you if you are older; after which most of your brethren not only let you carry it out in peace, but would, if needful, give you (at least in London) their cordial sympathy and help."

CONCRETE BUILDING UNDER WATER.

AT a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, May 13th, Mr. T. Hawksley, president, in the chair, a paper "On the Delta of the Danube, and the Provisional Works executed at the Sulina Mouth," by Sir Charles Augustus Hartley, was read. The provisional piers consisted of three rows of piles, the outermost rows being of close piling, on either side of which stones of less than a cubic foot in size were thrown from barges and allowed to take their natural slope up to the water-line. During the five years which succeeded, the waves broke down the ridge of stonework to the level of from 3 ft. to 4 ft. below the water-line, and the sea and inner slopes were reduced to 2½ to 1, and 1½ to 1, respectively. The problem was, how best to build in an open sea-way a solid wall 1¼ mile long, 10 ft. thick, and of nearly the same height, from an irregular foundation of *pierre perdue* to the level of the fast-rotting timber superstructure. At first, the wall was built on a roughly-levelled foundation, by lowering masses of unset concrete, within movable timber dams fitted, in lengths of from 15 ft. to 30 ft., to the framework of the piers. The earlier trials were unfortunate, from the proportion of cement mixed with the sand and gravel being insufficient to insure the stability of the blocks under water, and some 35-ton blocks at the pier-head, where the proportion of cement to gravel was only 1 to 4½, succumbed to the force of the winter gales. Ultimately, by the end of the summer of 1868, a length of 2,791 ft. of the north pier was successfully completed, the proportion of cement to the sand and gravel being 1 to 3 in the immersed portion of the wall, and 1 to 6 in the part above water. But although the progress of the works had been hitherto satisfactory, increasing difficulties and expense were met with in the rougher water seaward, and this induced the author, in the spring of 1869, to adopt an alternative plan for consolidating the seaward end of the piers, by carrying up the wall from a foundation on the rockwork carefully levelled by hand. Accordingly, a perfectly level bed at the depth of 5 ft. over a width of 12 ft. on the river side of the sheet piling, was executed by Russian divers for the next 1,247 ft. of the north pier. To afford greater security to the foundations, four 3-in. oak planks were spiked to the open piling which formed the inner row of the provisional piers, the lowest plank being fixed at 7 ft. 6 in. below the water-line. On the foundation thus prepared, blocks weighing 18 tons each, composed of one of cement to seven of sand and gravel, were lowered from the timber platform above to their destined site by powerful "goliaths." As each block was 5 ft. wide, and the distance between the quintuple rows of piles was 7 ft. 6 in., the interval between the blocks along the line of works was 2 ft. 6 in. The blocks were lowered when ten days old, and the spaces between them immediately filled up with newly-made concrete, which ultimately consolidated the whole mass. In 1869 the consolidation of the north pier was carried out to 3,200 ft. from the shore, and the south pier was consolidated for a length of 699 ft. on the plan first adopted at the north pier. In this year steam machinery was erected on shore for the construction of blocks of from 10 tons to 20 tons each, which were afterwards thrown from pontoons at random on the outer slope of the rock-work adjacent to the head of the north pier, where the waves were found to level down the ordinary *pierre perdue*. In 1870, the remaining length of 1,438 feet of the north pier was consolidated, and a new iron lighthouse was erected and fitted with a fourth-class dioptric light. The consolidation of the south pier was also completed up to the high-water line in 1870, but its crown-work was not finished till the summer of the following year.

The total sum expended on the Sulina piers, of which the north was 5,332 ft. long, and the south 3,457 ft., amounted to 185,352*l.* on the 30th September, 1871, when the works were entirely finished.

THE CHANCES OF ANOTHER BUILDING STRIKE.

THE building operatives of London, particularly the carpenters and the masons, though not acting in concert, are acting with a view to enforce another increase of wages, if possible this season. Some time since the master builders received a notice that a demand would be made upon them for compliance at a date not many weeks distant. Meetings are being organised and held weekly, for the furtherance of the object, under the name of the "Advance of Wages Movement"; but the word "strike" is as yet kept prudently in the background. To speak plainly, the *dernier ressort* cannot and will not be attempted by the building operatives of London unless their present organisation assumes a far different complexion, and shows a greater vitality and tone than what it seems capable of at present. The chances are all against the success of another building strike in London this year. A partial attempt might take place; but such another strike as that of last year is impossible. The demoralisation and the hardship that the last contest worked to the operative ranks is too fresh in the minds of both union and non-union men, and they will not be moved to action by any mere call on the part of those or a section of those who led them before, and would be likely to lead them again, in the event of another strike. The provinces would give little or no support to a second strike, and the distinct trade societies of the carpenters, joiners, and masons would not sustain by their funds any strike which was attempted without their approval. Any struggle precipitated in London at present would have to be carried on by voluntary aid external to society funds, and by the levies of those workmen making common cause with the strikers.

The building trade is somewhat better at the present moment than it has been for some months past; but though this fact might afford an encouragement, it would at the same time afford no guarantee that fresh demands could be enforced at a lapse of eight or nine months after a settled agreement had been concluded, and a proposition acceded to that any future disputes should be referred to arbitration. What did the building operatives of the metropolis gain by their last struggle? Less time and less wages. They are now offered by the master builders the option of making more time, and consequently more wages; but this they decline, on the plea that "overtime" is one of the greatest evils of the building trade. Now it is an incontrovertible fact that there are hundreds of carpenters, joiners, masons, and other workmen, even among the society-hands, working nightly in London overtime, for regular and what are called irregular firms, or non-society shops. The societies are powerless to abolish overtime; they wish to see it put down, yet they prudently allow their own members to work it. Overtime will always exist for workmen who desire to increase their income; and no matter how trade societies may attempt to control it, the exigencies of modern life and public wants will necessitate overtime being worked. Let our building operatives be wise in time, and avoid strikes; for even when successful, the gain is but temporary. A few may be benefited, but the many are certain to suffer, and the future of trade and the prosperity of the nation feel the evil effects. Trade-unions are not evils in themselves,—they have their great use; but, unfortunately, their abuses have more than counterbalanced the good they have accomplished for the benefit of their members. How many carpenters or joiners are there who lived through the forced idleness of last year's protracted strike can conscientiously say that they have made good since or recovered what they lost. Idleness ruins, drink ruins, strikes ruin, and the last is a species of intemperance which commonly embraces all and works ruin to many.

We wish the artizan classes of this empire every good they can fairly and honestly attain; and as to setting class against class, it has never and will never find any favour at our hands. We cannot look with any other feeling than regret upon the occurrence of either a lock-out or a strike; for we believe both to be unnecessary. Whatever obstructs or retards the industries of a country, and tends to beget an ill-feeling between the employer and the employed, cuts at the root of all social good and is cumulative in disaster.

Our monition to-day to the workmen of this metropolis is a kindly one. Let them take it in the spirit with which it is offered by those who have known their position long and well, who have gauged all their resources, and who wish to save them from inflicting a suicidal wound of a dangerous kind to their own and the nation's most vital interests.

SCHOOLS OF ART.

Lambeth.—There was a large gathering of the friends of the students of the Lambeth School of Art, in Miller's-lane, Vauxhall, on the occasion of the yearly distribution of prizes and certificates. The Rev. Canon Gregory presided. In the course of his opening remarks, as reported by the *South London Chronicle*, he said it was eighteen years since the school was founded. In their early days the school encountered many difficulties, until they were fortunate enough to secure the services of their friend, Mr. Sparks, as head master. Since that time their history had been one of progress and development. They were then met for the second time in that second room, their old premises having become too strait for them; and even with this increased accommodation, he must say that the art-school was well used as well as well taught. But they had not quite got rid of the housing difficulty, for, although the money had been paid, some 200*l.* had been advanced by himself and others. They were anxious to raise this 200*l.*, and were endeavouring to raise funds by way of lectures and concerts. In conclusion, he said that none had taken away the gold medal this year,

but several had gained silver medals. Mr. George Leslie, A.R.A., then delivered an interesting address upon the spirit which should animate artists in their work. Opening with a criticism by Mr. Redgrave upon the lecturer's remarks on art at the St. Martin's-lane school recently,—that these schools of art were not to make artists, but to produce in the people who attended them a taste for art,—Mr. Leslie deplored the division of labour whereby artists were confined to one branch of art, and which tended to destroy that unity of design in buildings and other undertakings which was the distinguishing feature of many ancient works. In conclusion, he said, with all due deference to Mr. Redgrave's opinion, he must beg to consider the students as artists in the true sense of the word,—artists of the same family to which it had been his pride to belong; and when he saw such drawings as they had before their eyes, no one could say that those capable of such performances were not *bonâ fide* artists.

Sheffield.—The annual *conversazione* of this school, and the opening of the exhibition of pictures in connexion therewith, have taken place at the school. Amongst the company were the Mayor and Master Cutler, the Mayor of Rotherham, Mr. Cole, C.B., Mr. A. Robertson (President of the School of Art), Mr. B. Wake, Mr. Cox (Pall-mall), &c. Mr. Sounes, the head master, in his annual report thus speaks of what the students had accomplished:—

"An idea of the successful working of the school during the past year will perhaps be formed best by quoting from the report made by the examiners at South Kensington, upon the works of the students sent to London for adjudication as usual in April last, and by comparing the prize list with that of last year. The report says, 'considerable versatility in the range of subjects, which were pursued generally with a success above the average, has secured for the schools an increase in the number of awards.' The prizes, compared with last year, are:—In 1871, 33 prizes, 2 national prizes, 4 free studentships; in 1872, 36 prizes, 7 national prizes, 9 free studentships. In the second grade examination in 1871, the number of passes was 85, and prizes 17; in 1872, passes 100, and prizes 32. There has been a better competition than usual for the local money prizes, and for the first time since 1865 they have all been awarded. The number of local prizes is 6; in 1865 it was only four."

At eight o'clock most of the company proceeded to the large studio beneath the "cast" room, to witness the presentation of prizes to the successful students by Mr. Cole. The chair was occupied by the president of the school, who briefly introduced Mr. Cole, who said the president had asked him to give an opinion upon the state of the Sheffield School of Art. He should attempt to do so from a somewhat superficial view. It would be agreeable for them to know that the school of art had earned more State money in 1872 than in 1871. In 1871 it received from Government 267*l.* upon the results of the work, and in 1872 it had received 321*l.* There had been a slight decline in numbers: last year there were 272 pupils, and in 1871 there were 274 pupils. But there had been a much larger decline in fees. From some mysterious reason the fees had declined about 100*l.* last year. In 1871 they amounted to 900*l.*; and in 1872 only reached 800*l.* With respect to their position with other schools throughout the country, that was shown by the prizes received by the head-master. There was a system by which one prize of 50*l.*, two prizes of 40*l.*, three prizes of 30*l.*, and several prizes of 10*l.* were distributed in recognition of the work of the schools. Their head-master, as in the preceding year, had taken a 30*l.* prize. It would no doubt be satisfactory to them that out of 122 schools Sheffield at least took that position. They were in a low ebb, however, in regard to drawing in Sheffield. With regard to science, it was beginning to simmer a little in Sheffield. The number of students had nearly doubled last year; there were 171 students in the various elementary schools. They were nibbling at science. In 1871 there were less than 90 students; and, in 1872, the students obtained from the State as the result of their learning 92*l.* There were 34 students learning something of chemistry; some few learning mathematics; some few botany; but, in a town like Sheffield, which depended so much on mineralogy, how many did they think were having an inkling of minerals? Should he say 100? No. There was not one. It was the same with regard to metallurgy. Such was the state of the progress in science and art.

Opening of a New Dock in Limerick.—The Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer have inaugurated the opening of the new graving dock at Limerick, which has just been finished, after five years' labour, at a cost of 20,000*l.*

HOUSE PROPERTY IN LEEDS.

An unusually large sale of house property has taken place in Leeds. The property in question constituted the estate of the late Mr. Wm. Croysdale, situated at Richmond-hill and Pottery-field, Leeds, and comprised 270 dwelling-houses and shops, a residence known as Richmond Hill House, and the Sussex Tavern. Mr. John Hepper (Messrs. Hepper & Sons) officiated as auctioneer; the solicitors for the vendors (Messrs. Barr, Nelson, & Barr) were represented by Mr. F. Barr; and the surveyors, Messrs. Bell & Thornton, were also present. The property was divided into twenty-seven lots, and, with one exception, they were all sold, the aggregate amount realised being 24,015*l.* The unsold lot,—a parcel of land,—was not put up to competition. The property had been previously valued by Mr. J. Bell, sen., at 24,019*l.* only 4*l.* more than the sum actually realised.

The following shows the rental of a few lots, the number of years' purchase which the purchase-money represents, and the price paid:—

	Rental.	Years Purchase.	Sold for.
	£ s. d.		£.
14 Cottages in Sussex-street, Salop-row, and Salop-street	81 18 0	12¾	1,050
14 Cottages in Salop-row and Salop-street	84 18 8	12½	1,050
14 Cottages in Salop-row and Salop-street	84 18 8	12¾	1,080
A Shop and 13 Cottages in Sussex-street, Salop-street, and Derby-street	83 8 4	12½	1,030
A Shop and 13 Cottages in Derby-street and Leicester-street	85 16 0	11¾	1,020
16 Cottages in Derby-street and Leicester-street	97 1 4	13½	1,320
A Shop and 13 Cottages in Sussex-street, Leicester-street, and Surrey-street	80 12 8	12½	1,020
A Shop and 13 Houses in Sussex-street, Surrey-street, and Ellerby-street	83 4 0	12½	1,050
The Sussex Tavern, Sussex-street and Kent-street	60 0 0	38	2,280
14 Cottages in Kent-street, Ellerby-street, and Sussex-street	109 4 0	11½	1,270

THE ST. GOTHARD RAILWAY.

We were enabled to give some early details respecting this great undertaking, and we now take from the *Greuzpost* the following particulars with regard to the machinery used in the construction of the St. Gothard tunnel. The machines in operation may be divided into two classes: the boring-machines proper, which work in the tunnel itself; and the apparatus and mechanical means outside the tunnel. The latter supply the motive power for the former. The boring-machines are not moved by hand; it would be likewise impossible to drive them by steam-engines, as an engine posted in the interior of the tunnel would soon fill the whole space with smoke, and not only make it impossible for men and animals to exist in such an atmosphere, but would soon extinguish its own fire. Nothing was seemingly left but to place steam-engines outside the tunnel, and to conduct the steam generated in them in pipes to the boring-place. But this also was impossible of execution: the steam would have been condensed in its progress through the pipes, and eventually changed again into water. Professor Colladon, of Geneva, proposed therefore the application of compressed air as a motive power. By means of the latter, the engineer is enabled to conduct power with little loss to almost any distance. Before the tunnel, now, great air-reservoirs have been constructed, in which the air is compressed to the twentieth part of its volume, by a force of 300 horse-power. This power is supplied by immense water-wheels, driven by the wild waters of the Reuss and the Tessin (Ticino). The compressed air is conducted in pipes to the place of operation, where it enters into a cylinder, and, expanding in the latter, moves its piston with great rapidity backwards and forwards. The piston is connected with the cutter, which penetrates deeper and deeper into the rock with each stroke. The boring-machines, of which there are several, bore together fifty to sixty holes. As soon as the latter are made, the machines, which move on rails, are run back, and the miners fill the holes with powder or dynamite, and fire them. As soon as the mines are exploded a valve of the air-conducting pipes is opened, and the force of the compressed air rushing out drives all the smoke in an instant out of the tunnel. After the *débris* of the explosion have been cleared away, the labour of boring begins afresh. The tunnel, which is to connect Göschenen direct with Airolo, will be 14,000 mètres, or a little over three hours long, and is 6,000 ft. below the summits of the Gothard group of mountains. What a superincumbent weight! The contractor of the work, M. Favre, has undertaken the work, which was estimated at 53 million francs, for 50 millions, and promised to finish it in eight years.

THE BRIDE STONES.

Sir,—The relics, mentioned in the *Builder*, No. 1575, are described in the "Mona Antiqua Restaurata," of the Rev. Henry Rowlands, second edition, A.D. 1766. The stones are in the parish of Biddulph, in the county of Stafford, on a rising ground in the break or opening between the Cloud and Woof-Lowe, two of the hills running through Staffordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire, into Scotland. In this work they are engraved with apparent accuracy, and as follows:—A pavement leads from the west, composed of broken pieces of stone, 2½ in. thick, laid on pounded white stones, 6 in. deep, tinged with black, caused by ashes and oak charcoal possibly. The sides of the cave were composed of two unhewn free-stones, about 18 ft. long, 6 ft. in height, and 14 in. thick, each broken into two pieces.

A partition stone was placed across these two long stones, about 5½ in. high, and 6 in. thick. A circular hole was made in this stone, 19½ in. in diameter. The height from the pavement to the covering was 5 ft. 10 in. Stones covered the whole relic, and two similar monuments were in the vicinity. At the west entrance, or opening, of the cave or passage, were four pillars, two on each side, rough, square, and tapering, 2 ft. thick, and 4 ft. 3 in. broad. Further west is, or was, a circle, composed of eight stones, from 3 ft. to 6 ft. broad, of various heights and shapes, distant about 6 ft. from each other, in a semicircular form. Within are, or were, two stones, where the earth is black, and mixed with ashes and oak charcoal. The circle is 27 ft. in diameter. 20 ft. eastward is, or was, a standing stone, and another at a similar distance beyond. I hope that the new proprietor will cause this ancient relic to be preserved.

Chr. Cooke.

POROUS TILE ROOFS.

For this evil there is a most simple and cheap remedy. Give the tiles a coat of coal tar, which can be obtained at a trifling cost from any gas works. One coat will answer the purpose; two is better. There is not the slightest objection as a matter of taste to the colour of the tar—a dark brown colour, just the colour of an old tile roof stained with age;—but if a red or grey colour is desired, sift fine sand of either colour over the roof whilst the tar is wet; it will adhere firmly. I speak from experience.

K. K.

THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The general meeting of this Society was held on Thursday in last week in Lincoln's-inn Hall, which had been lent them for the occasion by the benchers. The chair was taken by Lord Talbot de Malahide, who in his opening remarks referred to the proposed vandalism of destroying Northumberland House, which was now the only remaining nobleman's residence of its class.

Mr. E. W. Brabrook, F.S.A., then read an interesting paper "On the Hon. Society of Lincoln's-inn," in which he shortly traced the history of the society from its commencement. As affording a contrast with the present day, he quoted from Fortescue that the young benchers in those days could live in London comfortably on 25*l.* a year.

A paper by Mr. W. H. Spilsbury, the librarian, "On Lincoln's-inn and its Library," was also listened to with interest by the members.

A third paper, by Mr. Coote, "On the Inns of Chancery," was for some reason omitted.

The members then visited the library, spacious kitchen, old hall, and chapel of the Hon. Society

of Lincoln's-inn, and proceeded over the way to Rolls Chapel, where another paper explanatory of the antiquities of the building and office, by the Rev. J. S. Brewer, M.A., the preacher at the Rolls, was read.

Mr. Bloxam gave some explanations about one of the interesting features of the chapel, the monument of Dr. Young, who was Master of the Rolls in the time of Henry VII.

The members then went to Gray's-inn, where a paper "On the History of the Society and the Building," by Mr. W. Douthwaite, was read. Some of the old manuscripts and books, the few remnants of the Great Fire, were admired, especially a copy of the Bible in Latin, in diamond type and illuminated on vellum about the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The librarian called attention to the reminiscences of Lord Bacon, who was their chief glory, and who lived for many years in the square close by. A visit was paid to the chapel of Gray's-inn, after which most of the members partook of a collation at the Old Bell.

OAK.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent,—a herring-bone pattern for floors will do very well. Cut the oak out directly in lengths, 4 ft. long, 6 in. wide, ¼ in. thick, and boil the timber, if possible, in a brewer's boiler, or any large boiler that will contain it. This will get rid of the sap and season it; then stack it in any *dark* chamber, with plenty of air, taking care it is placed perfectly level, with ¼ in. pieces of wood between each board, to allow the air to pass. In six months it will be ready for use. Then plane it smooth, and fix it down with long fine brads. The finer the saw you use in cutting the timber the less will be the labour after in planing it. K. K.

A PROFESSIONAL TRIBUNAL.

AT the meeting of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, held on the 17th ult., the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Institute having taken into consideration the important bearing of the proposed Judicature Bill of the Lord Chancellor on professional practice, suggested to its notice by the Birmingham Architectural Society, and by report of recent proceedings at the Architectural Association of London, desires to second warmly any efforts which may be made by the Royal Institute of British Architects to further the establishment of such tribunals as proposed—viz., equity courts presided over by members of the architectural profession; and that this Institute desires that the provisions of such a Bill should be extended to Ireland, where the administration of justice in professional questions has been especially unsatisfactory."

"BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING."

SIR,—"Transcriber" does not state his case very clearly; at least, I for one never saw a letter written as he describes it. If we page a sheet of note-paper in the old straightforward way, but write thereon in the modern style, the pages are filled in the order, 4, 1, 2, 3, which is rarely varied. The reason is, I think, found in the use of the copying-press. The bulk of business letters written on note-paper do not extend beyond two pages. If these were numbered 1 and 2, as of old, press-copying would be troublesome, and either require two operations, or leave the copying-book in confusion. Hence it became usual to follow page 1 with page 4, in order to get the two pages *together* for copying. But as this was reading backwards, the modern practice has been to commence on page 4, continue on page 1, and follow with 2 and 3 if needful. For business purposes this is most convenient; but for private or uncopied letters, I should adhere to the old-fashioned way; while for matter intended to be printed it is too bad ever to write otherwise than on *one side only of every sheet or slip of paper*. COPYIST.

*** The gist of the matter is that the writing, whether in business or private notes, *is backed*, and the new style adds to the confusion. Few correspondents of the press think of the trouble this gives, though, as we have often said, "it is too bad."

HOUSE AGENTS *AND* HOUSE AGENTS.

LEVINSKI *v.* BRYANT.

THIS action, brought in the Lord Mayor's Court, before Sir T. Chambers, Q.C., Deputy Recorder, was to recover 17*l.* 10*s.* commission, at 5 per cent., on the letting of new premises.

The plaintiff stated that, in August, 1872, Mr. Bryant had a house being built in Wilson-street, Finsbury, where he, the plaintiff, was a dealer in cigarettes and prints, and the defendant told him if he could find a tenant for it, he would give him the usual 5 per cent. commission. He found a tenant named Stevens, and introduced him first to Mr. Bryant, and Mr. Stevens took the house at a yearly rental of 350*l.* When he, the plaintiff, asked for his commission, Mr. Bryant referred him to Mr. Newson, his house agent, who, he said, had made all the arrangements for letting the house, and to whom he had paid his commission, and perhaps Mr. Newson would give him something. Witness said he had nothing to do with any arrangements as to letting the house, all he had to do was to find a tenant, and he had done so. When he applied to Mr. Newson, that person utterly repudiated him.

The defendant now denied promising the plaintiff any commission, but only promised him a present if he produced a tenant at once. When the plaintiff introduced Mr. Stevens, he (defendant) asked 350*l.* per annum for the premises, and he then told the plaintiff that if Mr. Stevens agreed to take them that day or the next, he would make him a present, as it would save the expense of employing a house-agent afterwards. Having had to pay Mr. Newson to negotiate and let the house, the sum of 12*l.* 10*s.*, he objected to pay twice, but sent him to the agent to see if he would give him anything.

A strong point was raised that the plaintiff not being a house-agent, was precluded making house-agents' charges.

The learned Judge, in summing up, told the jury there could be no doubt but that the plaintiff introduced a customer for the premises, and was perhaps entitled to something for his trouble; but it was a question whether he could recover for commission as house-agent.

The Jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for five pounds, which will recover costs, on the lower scale, a matter that will add some fifty pounds to the verdict.

READING GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SIR,—Alas! I fear it is too true that the announcement in the *Builder* of last week is likely to prove correct: that our old Tudor grammar school in the Forbury (which dates from the time of Henry VII.), is doomed, and will soon be a thing of the past. This I much regret, in common with many of my fellow townsmen. Surely the numberless associations connected with this old building ought to be sufficient to protect it from entire demolition. For a small outlay, it may be so altered as to make an excellent free library and news-room for the use of the public,—a thing, indeed, the want of which is a standing disgrace. It would thus be carrying on in its old age that good and excellent work for which it has been so noted in the past,—the advancement of learning, and the cause of civilisation. AN OLD READING BOY.

CAUTION TO BUILDERS.

SIR,—Under the above heading, "Moffet Little" recites a case which is, perhaps, of more frequent occurrence than he thinks. But perhaps the other side of his case would open up facts which would alter the complexion very much. The point I wish to raise is—Whether this "sole arbiter" of the architect cannot very easily be upset if it can be shown he is acting unfairly? I have always felt it to be very dangerous to a builder to sign such a clause; but, having signed it, I have also held strongly to the opinion that the arbiter must be reasonable and equitable, failing which he could be displaced. Another point in this case is, whether the arbitrator (Mr. Foster) could admit the "sole arbiter" question after being, as your correspondent leads one to think, settled by Mr. Justice Quain. A table of what an arbiter under such circumstances *can* and *cannot* do (like Mr. Banister Fletcher's tables of what tenants are bound and are *not* bound to do in the way of dilapidations), would be very useful, and perhaps lead some of those gentlemen who still adhere to the sole arbitrament of their own works to modify their demands. H. A. W. B.

CEMENTS.

SIR,—A while ago I engaged to lay some cement on ironwork, where it was necessary that the article should set quickly.

I ordered and paid for a barrel of Portland, charging the dealer to send me good cement, and explaining the purpose for which it was required very fully. When I opened the barrel sent a short time before it was wanted, the article proved to be Roman.

As the case was very urgent, and my time limited, I explained to the gentleman for whom I was doing the work that I considered the cement sent would answer our purpose quite as well as Portland, as it seemed to be very good, being free from all symptoms of damp.

Accordingly, about half the barrel was mixed with about one-twentieth part of good red sand, and applied just in the same manner as the Portland would have been.

It was found after being on twenty hours to be literally no harder than when first applied, thus causing very serious loss.

May I request some of your correspondents to answer me the following questions:—

For general purposes, where colour is not an object, will not Roman cement of good quality answer quite as well as Portland, and set as quickly, even under water?

Did I not act in the way most men would have done, as the dealer's place was four miles away. I had paid him cash (14*s.*), and presumed the article sent was of that value? J. O.

TALL HOUSES AND SHORT ONES: A KNOTTY POINT OF LAW THEREON.

IN the County Court of Morpeth, last sittings, a case was tried involving several knotty points as regards damage caused by tall house rain-spouts flooding the roofs of short houses.

The plaintiff, Mr. Kelly, of Cowpen Quay, sued his neighbour, Mr. Guthrie, for damage done to his house by the overflow of rain from the defendant's spouts on to his roof.

The case was tried before a jury, and a long array of legal gentlemen were retained.

The evidence, however, showed that the original intention of the owners of the land on which the streets were built was to sell the sites for three-storied houses, and the defendant had fallen into this view and built several; and after he had done so no one else would take the ground for three-storied dwellings, and the owners of the land were glad to let it for two-storied houses, so that the defendant's houses treated the short ones with contumely and disrespect. The short houses, however, left one of the gable ends of the tall house unprotected, and it was partly blown down by a storm. After this the gable was not run up to its former height, but was "hipped" and roofed. Subsequently the house now owned and occupied by the plaintiff was built against the defendant's gable end, the plaintiff, of course, paying the usual charge for the party-wall. Both the eaves and spouting of the defendant's house projected over the roof of the plaintiff's house. The spouting was defective, water overflowed from it, and as a consequence, during the heavy rains of last winter and the snow thaws, the water had come down upon the short house roof in deluges and done the alleged damage of 60*l.*, the sum sued for.

The evidence was as usual very conflicting, and the surveyors called on each side as to the amount of damage were equally at variance.

The Judge, however, summed up in favour of the short house, and the jury mulcted the tall house in 10*l.* damages.

Verdict for 10*l.*, with costs.

COMPETITIONS.

St. Luke's, Cambridge.—A new district church is about to be erected for this increasing neighbourhood. The committee invited the following architects to lay sketches before them:—Mr. E. Barr; Mr. E. Bays, Cambridge; Mr. Fawcett, Cambridge; Mr. J. Norton, London; Mr. Smith, of the Adelphi; and Mr. R. R. Rowe. Ultimately they selected Mr. Smith to carry out the work.

Chester Workhouse.—In a letter addressed to the chairman of the Board, Messrs. Murray & Thomas, the authors of the plans "We Fight to Win," call attention to a report in which Mr. Culshaw states that the majority of the plans sent in cannot be executed under 42,000*l.* They say:—"Our plans being approved of by the guardians, and amongst the thirteen selected designs, we were very much surprised to hear such a statement had been made, whilst we are prepared to carry out the works for the sum named in our estimate,—viz., 27,000*l.*,—which is under the specified amount by 3,000*l.* We may further add that Messrs. J. Parker & Son, contractors of the Liverpool Exchange, Municipal Offices, Dale-street, and the Royal Exchange, Manchester (now in course of erection), are prepared to undertake the work at the sum stated in our estimate. In common fairness to ourselves, being the lowest in estimate, we consider ourselves entitled to the first premium." It was unanimously resolved to refer the letter to the building committee.

NEW LANDLORD AND TENANT AGREEMENTS AS TO BUILDINGS ON FARMS, &c.

THE North Riding of Yorkshire Chamber of Agriculture have inaugurated new conditions of holdings between landlord and tenant which are deserving of notice.

Several discussions at previous meetings of the Chamber led the council to delegate to their chairman, Mr. E. T. Cayley, of Wydale Hall, who, besides being a large landed proprietor, is a barrister-at-law and an able conveyancer, to frame an amended form of agreement between landlord and tenant; and last week Mr. Cayley submitted his form of lease, which contains twenty clauses, and the main alterations from the form of existing leases relating to the tenure of the land and tenant-right. These are principally a year's notice to quit from either side; the reservation of the winged game to the landlord; the tenant to have the right to take hares by coursing and rabbits by ferreting and digging, and to use wire-netting to exclude rabbits.

After providing for the preservation and replanting of fruit-trees, non-breaking-up of pasture, getting materials for repair, &c., the 10th clause says, that after a notice is given to quit, a white corn crop is not to be grown on more than half the tillage; but the tenant is to be entitled to a following crop, according to the custom of the country.

The next important matter is compensation for "unexhausted improvements in buildings or otherwise"; and the 16th clause recites, "The landlord or on-coming tenant is to allow the off-going tenant the then value, as ascertained by valuers, of any liming, claying, marling, or durable improvement; and of any draining, building, or permanent improvement, which the tenant may have made, with the consent of the landlord in writing, for which he shall not have been previously compensated, by reduced rent, length of time, or otherwise.

The 17th clause provides for the removal of buildings erected by the tenant without consent, if not taken by the landlord at a valuation, or three months' damages to be made good.

The tenants look upon these proposed new agreements as a step in the right direction, but as being some long way off their interests in many of the new clauses.

BOROUGH SURVEYOR FOR HARWICH.

SIR,—I cannot avoid calling your attention to an advertisement in your last edition. There must surely be some mistake about it. I find, by referring to the last census, that Harwich is a borough, with municipal and Parliamentary limits, returns a member to represent its interests in Parliament, and has a population of between six and seven thousand. Harwich wants a surveyor, &c., with a *practical knowledge of sanitary matters*, who must devote his whole time to his duties, and shall receive the large salary of 80*l.* per annum. I wonder whether there are any perquisites allowed? It would be wrong of me to say any more, Mr. Editor, or to criticise in an unkind spirit that which I must feel to be a mistake. No doubt about it. The figure 1 in front of the 8 has been omitted. 180*l.* would probably be the correct figure. I feel quite glad that I have hit upon it, and the Harwich Board will at once rectify it. C. J.

THE INSTITUTE DINNER.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged by your allowing me to state in your journal that the Institute dinner (for architects and amateurs of architecture) has been unavoidably postponed until Saturday, the 21st of June, when it will be held at Willis's Rooms, at half-past six for seven p.m. Gentlemen desirous of being present on the occasion should forward their names as soon as possible to the Institute. The price of the dinner-tickets will be one guinea each. CHARLES L. EASTLAKE, Secretary.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

Oxford.—The question of the drainage of Oxford, which has engaged the attention of the authorities for upwards of twenty years, may now be looked upon as practically settled. At the last monthly meeting of the local board, the drainage committee presented a report recommending the acceptance of the tender of Mr. G. T. Aycock, of Norwich, for the construction of the first section of the street drainage works for the sum of 15,000*l.* After a lengthened discussion, the board resolved to accept the tender of Mr. Aycock. The surveyor's estimate for the entire cost of the works is put down at the sum of 85,000*l.*, namely, for the town sewerage and outfall, 60,000*l.*; for the pumping station, 10,000*l.*; for the pumping main and overflow, 7,000*l.*; for other drainage works, 5,000*l.*; and for incidental expenses, 3,000*l.*

Chester.—The sewering committee having recommended that the mayor be authorised to affix the common seal of the city to the duplicate conveyance of Mr. Viggar's land, Sealand, purchased for the outfall works, and to the agreement between the council and the county justices, with respect to the carrying of one of the intercepting sewers through the county gaol at the castle, this was agreed to by the council. The same committee, at a meeting on the 12th May, opened the tenders for the new system of intercepting sewers, which were as follow:—

Gilbert	£30,770	0	0
Fry	29,759	0	0
Nowell	28,500	0	0
Smith & Fawkes	27,559	0	0
Marshall	27,000	0	0
Chappell	27,000	0	0
Pearson, Lee, & Co.	26,250	0	0
Sleight	24,589	0	0
Over, jun.	23,267	0	0
Hughes	22,902	0	0
Chester	22,840	0	0
Thane	22,400	0	0
Bennison & Spencer	21,879	18	0
Winter	21,330	14	0
Roberts	20,888	0	0

After some discussion Mr. Roberts's tender was accepted by the council.

NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE.

On the consideration of the Charing-cross and Victoria Embankment Bill in the Commons,

Lord Elcho said that, while admitting that houses of such architectural pretensions as this mansion must give way to public improvements, he recommended that some superintending body should be appointed to act in union with the First Commissioner of Works, in order to save the metropolis from disfigurements, such as Cannon-street and Charing-cross railway stations, and the various railway bridges across the Thames, as well as to prevent changes of the kind recently made in Kensington Gardens.

Mr. Bouverie said the Committee on this Bill, while regretting the necessity for removing one of the few remaining specimens of princely mansions in London, found the advantages of a direct route from Charing-cross to the Embankment so overwhelming that they gave the preference to this over all the other Bills. The Duke of Northumberland, although he had Parliamentary protection, gave his assent to the loss of the mansion for the sake of public convenience. The new street also received the approval of Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Barry, and one effect of its construction would be to hide the iron railway shed which had been alluded to. The plans would be submitted to the Institute of Architects, and the street would be one of the finest in the metropolis.

The motion was agreed to.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION'S VISITS.

ON Saturday, the 17th, the Architectural Association visited St. Luke's Church, Redcliffe-square, South Kensington, now approaching completion, and made a careful examination of the works. The president (Mr. Mathews), Mr. Thos. Blashill, Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, and other leading members of the body, were present. The architects, Messrs. G. & Henry Godwin, met them on the spot, and gave some particulars of the building, and of the difficulties which had to be overcome, especially in respect to the foundations.

It is a large church, nearly 150 ft. long, and the nave has a width of 35 ft. 4 in. from centre to centre of main columns; but, as we shall take an opportunity to give some illustrations of the building, we need not now go into particulars. The majority of the party ascended to the top of the spire, on which the cap-stone has since been placed. The Association afterwards visited the works of Messrs. Corbett & M'Clyment, and went over a number of their houses on the Redcliffe estate.

IT has been decided to have at least another week of holiday study on English ground before going further a-field. Grantham, Newark-on-Trent, Southwell, and the parish churches and other buildings in the neighbourhood, will, it is to be hoped, give pleasant occupation to a proper number of excursionists during the third week of next August. Mr. Edmund Sharpe will, of course, direct the expedition, and, as before, will map out the route in detail, after carefully going over the ground. When all the arrangements are made and put forward, the middle of July will be named as the time by which those who wish to take part must finally make up their minds and send in their names.

CHURCH-BUILDING NEWS.

Llanfachreth (near Dolgelly).—The church here has just been reopened after having been rebuilt. The old tower, however, has not been touched, but remains as before. The edifice pulled down possessed no archæological or architectural interest whatever, and was in a dilapidated condition. In plan the new building consists of a nave, 46 ft. 6 in. long and 20 ft. 6 in. in breadth, with a south porch, and a chancel of proportionate length, together with a vestry on the north side of it. The walls are built partly from the materials of the old church and partly of new rough local stone. The dressings are of Wrexham freestone. Externally, the roofs are covered with Portmadoc slating. A bold arch supported on corbels separates the nave from the chancel. The seats are all made of pitch-pine by the contractors (without extra cost), though deal was specified. All the benches are open; those to the chancel being of rather more elaborate design, with traceried fronts. The nave has an open stained roof, the chancel a panelled wood ceiling. The pulpit is of pitch pine, with partly open traceried panels, and stands on a stone base. The font is of Wrexham stone. The nave is paved with tiles of different colours, banded with slate; there being a handsome encaustic tile pavement to the chancel. The altar-table, communion-chairs, and railing, are to the architect's design. The total cost has been upwards of 1,200*l.*, the greater portion of which has been defrayed by Mr. John Vaughan, of Hannan Park, and the Hon. T. Pryce Lloyd. Mr. Ferrey, of London, was the architect. Mr. Alfred Guy was clerk of the works; and Messrs. Jonathan Smith & Lewis Evans, of Dolgelly, were the contractors.

Cheddar.—The parish church of Cheddar (St. Andrew's) has been reopened after having undergone a restoration, from designs by Mr. Butterfield, architect. The cost of the work has been about 3,500*l.* The original estimate of Mr. Butterfield was 3,000*l.*, but the estimate has been exceeded to the amount of 500*l.* The church, before the restoration which it has just received, was in a seriously dilapidated state. Its main chancel arch, and the arch and walls on the south of it, had all fallen outwards, and the walls above them were dangerously cracked and out of the perpendicular. These, with a large part of the south chancel, have been entirely taken down and rebuilt. The whole church has been largely repaired, and its stonework, where defective, renewed. The tower windows, which were built up, have been opened, and the pierced stone parapets and pinnacles of the church have been taken down, repaired, and reset. Many of the pinnacles had disappeared. The roofs, which leaked in every part, have to a large extent been repaired, reboarded, and covered with new lead; a new roof of timber and lead has been put upon the vestry. Remains of strong colouring were found upon the walls beneath the whitewash in all parts of the church. The remains of painting on the timber ceiling of the nave were clear, and the ceiling has been repainted in bright colours, in imitation of the old work. The chancel ceiling, beneath an old roof of a higher pitch than that of the nave, is a new one, and of a different character. This also has been painted, so as to carry on the colours of the nave roof eastward. The walls of the chancel and the wall on the west side of the chancel arch are inlaid with lines of constructional colour, with some addition of painting. The remains of old glass which were scattered throughout the windows of the church, and which had already been much moved and patched, have been collected into the large windows of the south chapel already mentioned, and have been put together and harmonised on a new flowered ground. The entire church has been reglazed. The church has been entirely refloored and repaved, and a great amount of earth has been cleared away both within and without the walls. The old nave and aisle seats have been retained, and new ones in oak added. The chancel fittings are new, but some old oak panelling has been used up in parts of them. The old screens to the two side chancels have been refixed. The church has been lighted by coronas and brackets for gas, and has been heated. A new east window, painted, has been presented by a lady to the church. The subject is the Ascension of our Lord. The window is the work of S. Gibbs, of London. The expense of the restoration has mainly fallen on the Marquis of Bath and the vicar of the parish, the extent of which will be about 3,500*l.*, and this, irrespective of the repair and improvement of the organ, at a cost of 65*l.*, and the entire refitting of the church with new gas-fittings, at a cost of 90*l.*; the old standards being removed, and coronas substituted.

Ashbury.—The parish church of St. Mary, Ashbury, near Shrivenham, has been re-opened after restoration, by the Bishop of Oxford. The church, like many others in the neighbourhood, shows signs of the successive ages of architecture, the earliest portion of the building, dating back to the twelfth century. The Norman tower, with zigzag mouldings on the south side, had been built up, but it has now been opened at the special request of the Incorporated Church Building Society. The upper part of the tower (Early English), being much dilapidated, has been rebuilt. One of the bells has been re-cast and re-hung, and a new belfry-chamber made, the floor of the tower being curtained off as a vestry. In the south transept, which belongs to the Decorative style, a monumental arch has been discovered, under which probably the founder of the chapel was buried. The pews put up in the last century have been demolished, and open seats substituted, showing the pillars of the nave, which were built in the Perpendicular period. A new pulpit of freestone, carved, has been placed in the room of the old one. There is a reredos of the same material in the chancel. The floor of the chancel is laid with Minton's tiles, at the cost of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The memorial window in the south transept was erected to the memory of the late vicar, the Rev. W. Chambers. The central subject represents Christ preaching the Sermon on the Mount. Another subject represents Moses keeping the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the Priest of Midian. A third contains a representation of Boaz and Ruth. The fourth window represents an angel "flying through the midst of heaven." The church is warmed by Parrett's stoves. The architect employed was Mr. J. W. Hugall, of Oxford; and the builders Messrs. Wall & Hook, Brimscomb, near Stroud. The total cost of the restoration, exclusive of the chancel repairs (defrayed by the rectors, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners), is nearly 1,100*l.*

Bilsthorpe.—The work of restoration at Bilsthorpe Church is progressing. Mr. Hine, the diocesan surveyor for the county of Notts, is the architect; and the builder is Mr. Young, of Lincoln.

Ettingshall.—The foundation-stone of a new church to be built on the site of Holy Trinity Church, Ettingshall, has been laid. The building is to be in plain Early English style, and will consist of nave, north aisle, chancel, and transepts, with an organ-chamber and a vestry on the north side of the chancel. The materials are Gornal stone, with Bath stone dressings. Inside the roof will be open-timbered, covered outside with tiles. The total length of the building will be 90 ft. The nave will be 25 ft. wide; the chancel and transepts, each 20 ft.; the width across the transepts, 61 ft.; and the height to the wall-plate, 22 ft. Accommodation will be provided for 500 persons, including 147 children. The cost, exclusive of spire, will be 2,760*l.* The architect is Mr. Griffin, and the builder Mr. Horsman, both of Wolverhampton.

Weston-super-Mare.—The chapel of the West of England Sanatorium has been opened. This little edifice is adjacent to the new wing of the Sanatorium. The building measures 58½ ft. in length by 20 ft. in width and 44½ ft. in height, and will accommodate 150. The style of architecture is Early English, the east end being apsidal. The three windows in the apse are filled with stained glass, representing "The Passion," "The Incarnation," and "The Ascension." Below the centre light is the reredos, in the centre niche of which Christ is represented in the act of blessing the Eucharistic cup. The curve of the apse is enriched throughout its whole extent and depth, from the window-sills to the basement, with carved diapering of sunk double quatrefoil, bordered on the top by a frieze; the ends of this wall-screen being finished with columns of black marble with carved capitals. The credence-table is also of polished black marble. The floors are paved with encaustic tiles. The roof is Early Gothic. At the west end is a gallery connected with the Sanatorium, enabling patients who, from bodily infirmity, are unable to descend to other parts of the chapel, to attend the service with convenience. The six side-windows are filled with stained glass, representing the six acts of mercy. The pulpit is of carved stone. The organ was built by Mr. Sweetland, of Bath.

Saffron Walden.—Mr. Rutterfield's report upon the condition of Saffron Walden parish church is being circulated in pamphlet form, and an active effort is being made to increase the subscription-list. It is necessary to raise the sum of 4,000*l.*, and 2,600*l.* have been already promised.

DISSENTING CHURCH-BUILDING NEWS.

Wombwell. — The foundation-stone of a Wesleyan chapel has been laid at Wombwell. The site is a plot of land, 580 yards in extent, situate between the parish church and the Ship inn, and having a frontage to the road leading through Wombwell to Wath. The building will be in the Italian style of architecture. The chapel, which will be of stone, will be 42 ft. long, 34 ft. 6 in. wide, with school, vestry, and class-rooms at the back. Over the entrance to the chapel will be a gallery to accommodate about 130 children, the body of the chapel being constructed to seat about 220. The pews will be of pitch pine, varnished. The estimated cost will be about 1,300*l.*

Melton Mowbray.—The opening of the new west doors of the parish church has taken place. During the early part of the restoration these doors were almost the only means of entrance, one part of the church being entirely cut off. Therefore, the completion, or nearly so, of the main part of the church, that admission might again be obtained through the principal entrance, was regarded as a notable event. The doors are made of oak. The work of restoration, so far as at present completed, has been at an outlay of 6,500*l.* The restoration of the tower, however, is said to be much needed.

Nuneaton. — The new Wesleyan Chapel in Abbey-street has been opened for divine service. The work has been executed by Mr. Fox, of Stretton-under-Fosse, from drawings by the Rev. J. P. Johnson, of London, altered by Mr. W. S. Burton, of Leicester, architect, and the total cost of the building is to be about 1,500*l.* The shape of the chapel is a parallelogram, of Gothic design, and built in the Early English style. The windows are to be glazed with tinted glass; there are no galleries, and the chapel is calculated to seat 400 persons. The rostrum, seats, and other internal wood fittings, are of deal, stained and varnished. The building is warmed by apparatus supplied by Mr. Grundy, of Tyldesley, near Manchester; the fencing round the chapel has cost 70*l.*; and the gas-fittings are from the works of the Skidmore Art Company, at Coventry.

Northampton.—The Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Wellingborough-road, has been opened for divine service. It is built on the site of a former but smaller place of worship. The work of rebuilding was commenced in October. It affords sitting accommodation for about 300 persons; is seated with open pews, of modern construction, in the body of the chapel, and has also a small gallery at the back. On either side of the pulpit it is lighted by two long arched windows, between which there is a centre circle light; and at the entrance by windows of a square pattern. Artificially, it is lighted with a star-gas pendant, and brackets placed at intermediate points on the walls and gallery spaces. Underneath the chapel there is a school-room, to be used for Sunday-school teaching, and which will accommodate between 200 and 300 children. It is also intended to use this room as a sort of temperance-hall for the neighbourhood. The total cost of the building has been about 750*l.*, towards which 216*l.* 13s. 10d. have been raised.

Darlington.—A Free Church at Middleton-One-Row has been erected in the centre of the village. It is to be used by the Protestant denominations, and has been formally opened by the Rev. E. Boaden, of the Free Methodist Church. The chapel is plain and commodious, built of red brick, with stone dressings. The ceiling is partly open to the roof, the exposed timbers being stained and varnished, as are also the open pews and other woodwork. The whole of the works have been carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Richard Robinson, architect, Darlington; the contractors being for brick, mason, and plaster work, Mr. John Robinson; carpenter's and joiner's work, Messrs. Laverick & Foster; plumber's work, Mr. Johnson, Tubwell-row; slater's work, Mr. J. Atkinson; and painter's work, Mr. W. Roberts, Darlington.

Preston.—The corner and memorial stones of the New Wesleyan Chapel, Marsh-lane, Preston, have been laid in the presence of a great gathering of spectators. The Italian style of architecture has been adopted, and the edifice is to be of brick, relieved with ornamentation of stone. The structure will be surrounded by a palisading, and is approached by several steps to a portico. This comprises three arches, the columns being relieved with ornamental caps; and above this is a triple window. There are three large pediments crowning the front of the building, a smaller pediment spanning each of the right and left wings. The façade is considerably relieved by pilasters, panels, and recesses of an ornamental character. On each side there are recesses for the windows, a block cornice running from end to end. The total height is 40 ft. externally, which is reduced to about 33 ft. in the interior. Opening out to the portico is a vestibule, on each side of which access is gained to the lower and upper portions of the chapel. The ground floor is divided by two aisles, and about 450 people will be afforded sittings. The pews will be a mixture of yellow and pitch pine, stained and varnished. There will be no pulpit, but the preacher will address his auditory from a rostrum or platform, which is surrounded by ornamental railings, and behind is the communion-table. A gallery with about 300 sittings is also to be erected, and behind the communion there will be the organ-chamber and choir-pew. The roof will be a segment in form, and panelled and enriched with plaster cornice and moulds. In the rear of the building are a class-room and minister's vestry; and behind a small yard and usual conveniences. The tenders have been let as follow:—Masonry, David Tullis & Son; brickwork and excavating, John Dalton; plastering work, Messrs. Jones & Martin; joiners' work, R. Paul; slating, Clarkson & Son; plumbing and glazing, J. and R. Park & Co., all of whom are of Preston. The estimated cost of the chapel is 2,500*l.*, and the land having been purchased at 500*l.*, the total cost is calculated at 3,200*l.*

Macclesfield.—A site for a Wesleyan chapel has been purchased in Cumberland-street, opposite the south entrance to the Park, and upwards of 3,100*l.* have already been promised towards the new chapel fund. The style of architecture has not yet been decided upon, but the contemplated expenditure will be 6,000*l.* In a few weeks, if funds are forthcoming, the foundation-stone will be laid.

Middlesbrough.—The new Unitarian church and schools in Corporation-road, Middlesbrough, have been opened. The architecture of Christ Church is early Gothic, and the total cost of the edifice and schools is estimated at about 2,250*l.*, a great portion of which has been subscribed. Mr. Clephan, of Stockton, is the architect.

Congleton.—A bazaar has been held in the Town-hall, Congleton, for the purpose of assisting to provide a fund for the erection of a new Congregational Church in this town. A site has been purchased for a new church in Antrobus-street, and Mr. Sugden, of Leek, architect, has been commissioned to prepare plans and elevations. It is expected that the outlay will be about 4,000*l.*, towards which about 2,000*l.* are in hand. The receipts of the bazaar amounted to upwards of 250*l.*

Chalford.—The memorial-stone of a new Baptist chapel has been laid at Chalford, Gloucestershire. The style of architecture is Romanesque, the walling being of freestone quarried in the hill on which the building is being erected. The chapel is to seat 450 persons, and will cost about 1,600*l.* The architect is Mr. Tait, of Leicester, and the builder Mr. Drew, of Chalford.

SCHOOL-BUILDING NEWS.

Ardwick.—A new girls' school in connexion with St. Thomas's Church, Ardwick, has been opened, in the presence of a large assembly, by the Bishop of Manchester. In the year 1870 large new school buildings were opened in the parish to accommodate 400 boys and 300 infants. The cost of the buildings and the site was 4,200*l.* In consequence of the passing of the Education Act it became necessary to provide additional accommodation for the girls, who had hitherto been taught in the old school buildings. The new infants' school also being quite filled with scholars, an additional class-room was found desirable. A site between the new schools and the church offered itself. Upon this site have been erected a commodious school-room for 300 girls, a class-room for 80 infants, and a covered play-room, which can be converted into an additional school-room in a few days, should it be required. The total cost of the site and buildings will be about 4,000*l.* Of this sum about 300*l.* will be required for the purchase of the chief-rent. Towards this sum about 2,100*l.* have been raised. At one end of the large room there is a lavatory and cloak-room, and this and the class-room, which is situated at the other end of the large room, are heated by warm air generated from two "Manchester School Grates." The heating apparatus is a simple contrivance, patented by Messrs. Shillito & Shorland, of Manchester. The builder of the school is Mr. Robert Ellis, of Hulme, from the designs of Messrs. Royle & Bennett.

Middlesbrough. — The foundation-stone of Roman Catholic Church Schools has been laid at Eston. The site on which the building will be erected is on the Middlesbrough-road, at the corner of Graham-street. As a church it will accommodate about 400 persons. The architects are Messrs. Hunter & Carr, of Middlesbrough.

Golcar.—The opening of a new Church-school at Westwood Edge, Golcar, has been celebrated by a tea-party and public meeting. The school, which is in a plain Gothic style, has been erected at a cost of 650*l.*, and it is capable of accommodating 250 children.

Llandegley.—New schools for the parish of Llandegley, Radnorshire, have recently been opened. A commodious house for the master forms part of the works, which have been carried out by Messrs. Ingram & Jones, from the designs of Mr. E. H. Lingen Barker, architect.

Books Received.

Human Longevity: its Facts and Fictions. By WILLIAM J. THOMS, F.S.A., Deputy Librarian, House of Lords. London: Murray. 1873.

Mr. THOMS's painstaking researches into alleged cases of centenarianism are well known, and they now form an interesting volume, in which some of such cases are completely disproved, others shown to be doubtful, and a few of them established. Mr. Thoms has not gone into the inquiry with a predetermination to disprove every such case, as has been done; so

that his results are all the more just and valuable. He has proved that some such cases do occur, but that in still more a tendency to exaggerate and excite astonishment and reverence amongst acquaintances has induced supposed centenarians and their friends not only to go "beyond the score," but far beyond even the century, which is so seldom, and ever so little, exceeded. We do not despair, as we have before said, of the lengthening of man's days to 100 years as a much more common limit than now, by sanitary means; and certainly the average is considerably lengthening already; but we suspect that beyond that extreme point no merely sanitary improvement is ever likely to lengthen man's days, or to stave farther off those natural causes of decay under which the frame once composed and consolidated goes on to become constricted, ossified, and at length incapable of vital movement. As one of the Gregorys remarked in a physiological work, it is the continued operation of the very causes of life itself,—which build up the organism and then consolidate its tissues that go on to constrict and wither it away; so that nothing short, one would think, of retrogressive intervals of constrictive-life suspension, far more potent and actual than "nature's sweet *restorer*, balmy sleep," would be requisite to retrograde and counteract those constrictive processes which otherwise inevitably result in decay and total cessation of life in the flesh.

Mr. Thoms's volume includes a searching inquiry into some of the more remarkable instances of human longevity and suggestions for testing reputed cases, illustrated by the examples given. Of course among others we have here old Parr's pretensions to 152 years of age discussed, much to their disadvantage, and also those of Henry Jenkins to 169, in both of which cases Mr. Thoms declares that not a tittle of evidence in their favour exists.

We shall conclude with a case for his inquiry which happens to have just been announced in the newspapers as follows:—

"Lady Smith, widow of Sir Edmund James Smith, the eminent botanist, who was knighted by George IV., reached her 100th birthday on Sunday. On Monday a dinner was given to 100 of the oldest people in the town of Lowestoft, where Lady Smith lives, and a grand dinner was also held in the evening to further celebrate the event. The town was decorated with bunting."

As Mr. Thoms is quite as willing to establish the truth of such a case as to disprove it, inquiry at so opportune a time cannot be held to be offensive; while, on the contrary, the evidence, which may be complete, in its favour, may obviate all doubt in the minds of those open to conviction.

The Soldier's Manual of Sanitation, and of first Help in Sickness, and when Wounded. By Deputy Surgeon-General CHARLES ALEXANDER GORDON, M.D., C.B. London: Bailliere, Tindall, & Cox, Strand. 1873.

THIS manual is intended for perusal and reference by officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the active forces; militia, yeomanry, and volunteers, for home and foreign service, for peace and for war. It contains a great deal of useful matter, simply arranged in alphabetical order for ready reference; and, without being intended to supersede professional aid, it is well adapted to aid professional men themselves in their care and cure of coming evils in the soldier which require professional treatment. It contains much good and valuable advice as to cleanliness, drink, air, food, &c., and might be of great use amongst others besides soldiers,—in the navy, and amongst sailors in general, for example;—or a similar book might be readily adapted for various uses.

VARIORUM.

The Sanitarian, a monthly journal: A. N. Bell, M.D., editor. Barnes & Co., New York and Chicago. No. 1. Vol. I. This is a promising new journal, and will show how sanitary science progresses in the United States. The present issue contains an elaborate paper, by the editor, on the New York Quarantine Establishment, illustrated by maps, and views of hospitals, &c. There are various other papers, on Sanitary Science, infant mortality, results of sanitary improvement, &c."——"Hints to Sanitary Legislators. By Vigilans. London: Baily, Cornhill." "It is unquestionably possible [as the author remarks] to strengthen and improve the physique of a race; it is possible to save and prolong life; it is possible to increase health and strengthen the constitution; and it is possible to enable the mass to subsist comfortably on the proceeds of their industry. But this can only be effected by the rulers of the State, and by the Government itself taking the matter in hand with a firm determination to carry out the requisite sanitary measures *coute qui coute*. If the following pages should in any way serve to forward the progress of this desirable object, by inducing members of the Legislature to consider the subject, the intentions of the author will have been accomplished." While treating of pure water and filtration, the process of making Atkins's filters is thus described:—

"The best and purest animal charcoal is pulverised into a fine dust-like powder, and to this is added certain proportions of Norway tar, mixed with a combination of other combustible ingredients, equally finely powdered. The combined material is then thoroughly well mixed with liquid pitch, and the amalgamation is kneaded into a paste capable of being moulded into blocks or slabs of any size."

——"St. Pancras: Report of the Commissioners for Public Baths and Washhouses, 1872–73." In presenting their eighth annual report to the vestry, with the usual statement of accounts, the reporters state that the year now completed has been the most favourable for bathing and washing yet experienced during the five years this Institution has been open. The receipts are 432*l.* 10s. 1½d. more than on any previous year; and the increase has been continuous in every way since the opening. The balance-sheet shows that the total revenue from all sources has been 3,463*l.* 10s. 5d.; and the expenditure for instalments and interest on the balance of loans, is 2,056*l.* 5s., while the total expenditure is 4,248*l.* 1s. 8d., showing the working expenses to be 2,191*l.* 16s. 8d., making the profit on the year 1,271*l.* 13s. 9d.; and had it not been for the unusual increase in the cost of fuel, this amount would have been still more. ——"Electricity and Magnetism. By Fleeming Jenkin, F.R.S.S., L. & E., M.I.C.E., Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh. London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1873." This treatise, though one of a series of text-books of science, adapted for the use of artizans and students in public and other schools, is not to be classed with the general run of such treatises, inasmuch as one special purpose of it is to initiate the outer public into the inner modes of thought and talk among *savans* themselves, and not to adhere rigidly to the ordinary text-book style. As the author remarks:—

"In England at the present time it may almost be said that there are two sciences of electricity—one that is taught in ordinary text-books, and the other a sort of floating science known more or less perfectly to practical electricians, and expressed in a fragmentary manner in papers by Faraday, Thomson, Maxwell, Joule, Siemens, Matthiessen, Clark, Varley, Culley, and others. The science of the schools is so dissimilar from that of the practical electrician that it has been quite impossible to give students any sufficient, or even approximately sufficient, text-book. . . . . The plan followed is as follows:—First, a general synthetical view of the science has been given, in which the main phenomena are described and the terms employed explained. This general view of the science cannot be made very easy reading, although it will probably be found easier by those who have no preconceived notions about tension, intensity, and so forth, than by students of old text-books. If this portion of the work can be mastered, the student will then be readily able to understand what follows, viz., the description of the apparatus used to measure electrical magnitudes, and to produce electricity under various conditions."

——"Notes on Beds and Bedding, historical and anecdotal. By James N. Blyth. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co." This small volume contains a good deal of interesting matter in regard to beds and bedding, ancient and modern.—— "Honiton Lace-making, illustrated. London: *The Bazaar* (Newspaper) Office, Wellington-street." "Full and practical instructions for acquiring this beautiful art," with patterns illustrated, are given in this useful little treatise.

Miscellanea.

Whitby Piers and Harbour Commissioners.—At a meeting of the Piers and Harbour Trustees, an important plan, prepared under the instructions of the Local Board was taken into consideration. This plan is for the formation of a new quay by the side of the harbour to Boghole, in connexion with the North-Eastern Railway, and near the termini of the Scarbro' and Whitby and Middlesbro', Redcar, and Whitby Union Railways; and also for the opening out of a new road at the end of Baxtergate, as an approach to the railway. The plan comprises a 75 ft. quay, and a 30 ft. road. The plan, with a little modification, received the approval of the commissioners, and, it is hoped, will also meet the views of the North-Eastern directors, who are expected to visit Whitby at Whitsuntide.

National Health Society.—This society held its seventh meeting this season at the rooms of the Social Science Association, on May 1st, when the subject of "Infant Mortality" was considered in a paper by Dr. Alfred Carpenter, of Croydon; the means also by which constitutional weakness is developed were discussed at some length. The author urged that every man is entitled, at birth, to a full measure of health, and that any departure from that standard is to some extent depriving him of his birthright. He considered, therefore, hereditary or constitutional weaknesses as mortgages effected by the profligacy or the ignorance of our ancestors, and that it became the duty of the society to show the way in which such mortgages could be paid off. He pointed out that Darwin's observations had demonstrated how errors became imparted to progeny, and that hereditary diseases were errors propagated in the descendants of those who committed such errors. He then pointed out that it was shown statistically that 81 per cent. of our population were hurried into another world before their time in consequence of such errors, and that the wholesale destruction of infant life which went on yearly in Christian England was far beyond the destruction which was perpetrated by King Herod before the commencement of the Christian era. He then showed that such destruction was not a necessary contingency, but could be materially reduced by corporate action, illustrating his point by reference to the sub-district of Beddington and Wallington, in which is situated the Croydon sewage farm. Dr. Carpenter observed that in London one in six children born, died before it reached the age of one year; whilst in Beddington, in a population of 3,000 persons, most of whom lived within half a mile of the sewage-farm, the death-rate was only 1 in 13½.

Uniformity of Valuation Bill. — Mr. Stansfeld's Bill for the uniformity of valuation classes rateable property as follows:—1. Houses or buildings without land otherwise than gardens, where the gross value is under 20*l.*, maximum rate of deduction to be one-fourth; 2. Houses and buildings without land other than gardens and pleasure-grounds valued therewith for inhabited house duty, where the gross value is 20*l.* and under 40*l.*, maximum deduction to be one-fifth; 3. The like, where the gross value is 40*l.* or upwards, maximum deduction one-sixth; 4. Buildings without land which are not liable to inhabited house duty and are of a gross value of 20*l.* and under 40*l.*, maximum deduction one-fifth; 5. The like, of a gross value of 40*l.* and upwards, maximum deduction one-sixth; 6. Land with buildings not houses, one-tenth; 7. Land without buildings, one-twentieth; 8. Mills and manufactories, one-third. The following are all placed together, viz., brickyards; mines and quarries; rights of fishing, fowling, shooting, and sporting; tithes and tithe rent-charge; railways, canals, docks, tolls, waterworks, and gasworks; and rateable hereditaments not included in the foregoing classes; and the maximum rate of deductions for all these is to be determined in each case according to the circumstances and the general principles of law, as amended by this Bill. The maximum rates of deductions above prescribed are also not to apply to houses or buildings let out in separate tenements; the rate in such cases is to be determined by the assessment committee.

Society of Biblical Archæology.—It is intended shortly to publish a series of translations of all the important Assyrian and Egyptian texts which exist in the various collections of England and the Continent, and thus place before the English student the remains of undoubtedly the oldest and most authentic literature in the world, the foundation of all history, archæology, and Biblical exposition, the contemporaneous records of the nations and writers of the Bible. The selection of the records will not be confined to those bearing directly on the text of the Bible, but embrace the entire range of Egyptian and Assyrian history and literature.

The Annual Conversazione of the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers is to take place on Tuesday next, the 27th inst., in the West Galleries of the International Exhibition. The invitations have again been issued in the names of the President and Mrs. Hawksley; and the distinguishing feature of last years' reception,—the presence of ladies,—is to be repeated. The machinery will be shown in motion, and will be explained by the different exhibitors, aided by members of the Institution.

The New Deaf and Dumb Institution, Bristol.—The new premises now being built for the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Bristol, near the Queen's Hotel, Tyndall's Park, is in a forward state. It is being erected from designs by Mr. J. Bevan, of Bristol, architect, and the work is being done by Mr. Gay, contractor. The new institution is designed to accommodate about seventy children (double the number of pupils now under instruction). The style is domestic Gothic. The building will consist of a basement and three stories. The principal entrance in the middle will be approached from the Queen's Hotel-road by a flight of steps; at the back of the entrance-hall will be the principal staircase, and behind that a large room for meals, with a school-room over. A wing on either side of the entrance will provide rooms for the committee and matron, apartments for the teachers, and day-rooms and dormitories for the first-class and other pupils,—the boys occupying the right and the girls the left wing. A room at the top of the house is set apart for sick inmates. The basement contains the usual domestic offices and bathing and lavatory accommodation for the children. At the back of the building is a large playground. The master's residence stands at the end of the Institution, and will overlook the park. The building will be of local stone, with freestone dressings. In addition to the estimated value of the present house, 4,000*l.* will be required for the new building, the purchase of the site, and extra furniture.

Mr. Plimsoll, our Seamen, and our Ships. It is to be regretted that Mr. Plimsoll has met with difficulties, even with the Board of Trade, in his endeavours to secure the safety of our ships and our seamen; for he complains that information has been refused by the Board to aid him in the saving of lives, while this very information was freely given to underwriters in order to aid them in making their investments! Nevertheless, the influence of coming legislation is felt, and "is working wonders," according to Mr. Plimsoll, in the repair of ships, and notwithstanding "the cry of the Board of Trade for delay." Why should there be any delay in the saving of lives? As to overloading, and especially deck-loading, Mr. Plimsoll has put into printed form, and is circulating, a speech of Mr. Fry, in the Canadian Parliament recently, which is important and instructive. It shows the deplorable extent and the awful character of the results which followed the removal from the Statute Book, in 1862, of the prohibition which previously existed against the practice of deck-loading. The Commission is at work.

Dulwich College Authorities and the North-east of London.—The vestry authorities of St. Luke's have issued a pamphlet and a placard, stating objections to the proposal of the Endowed Schools Commissioners that the Dulwich College authorities give 10,000*l.* to each of the parishes of St. Luke and St. Botolph, towards the erection of schools, under Edward Alleyn's will, for the benefit of the lower middle class; and urging that while 135,000*l.* have been expended for the benefit of 322,000 souls on the south of the Thames, and educating a little over 500 boys, the sum of 20,000*l.* is very inadequate to the educational wants of a population on the north of the Thames estimated at 475,000 souls, for whose wants at present no college has been provided. They are the more earnest in their opposition to the scheme of the commissioners because it is notified that the next step which the latter propose to take is to erect more schools on the Surrey side of the water. It is intended to hold several public meetings in the north-east of the metropolis on the subject.

Proposed Museum for Sheffield.—At a recent meeting of the Town Council, the mayor moved, "That it be an instruction to the Free Public Libraries Committee to procure plans and estimates for the erection of a public museum on the site immediately adjoining the Central Library building, and to submit the same for the approval of this Council." After some discussion, Mr. Robertshaw moved as an amendment, "That the Free Library Committee be instructed to take into consideration the best means of utilising the land adjoining the Free Library buildings, and report to the Council thereon." The committee, he said, might then consider, not only the utilisation of this land, but whether they could get more land, and then they could erect a municipal-hall and a museum also. The motion was lost by a majority of 19 to 14 in favour of the amendment.

Alterations at the Islington Workhouse Schools.—At a recent meeting of the local Board of guardians, the clerk presented Mr. Higgins's bill, as surveyor for alterations at the schools. It amounted to 29*l.* The contract amounted, Mr. King said, to 500*l.* Mr. Wiltshire said the surveyor's charge was 6 per cent., and a first-class architect would only have charged 5 per cent. He observed that a charge had been made on the value of old materials which ought not to be allowed. Mr. King said the School Visiting Committee had carefully examined the account, and they considered it satisfactory. It had been settled that architects were entitled to charge a commission on utilising old materials, as their skill was required in dealing with them. The amount was only 5*l.* He moved that the bill be paid. After some discussion, in course of which Mr. Wiltshire moved as an amendment, that a commission of 5 per cent. be paid on 442*l.*, the amount of the two contracts, the motion of Mr. Wiltshire was carried.

Alexandra Palace.—The opening of the Alexandra Palace and Park on (this) Saturday, the 24th instant, will be an event of importance, as adding a new place of amusement and recreation to the metropolis, and especially as providing for residents in the great and rapidly growing northern suburbs an establishment offering similar attractions to those so long enjoyed at the Crystal Palace by their southern brethren. The natural beauty of the Alexandra Park, heightened as it is by judicious and tasteful planting, would alone suffice to attract myriads of visitors, and the extent of the grounds (which embrace 220 acres) renders them a valuable addition to the existing lungs of London. The great organ, by Mr. Willis, built under the superintendence of Sir Michael Costa, is one of the largest and finest instruments in the kingdom. A first-rate orchestra has been formed by Mr. Weist Hill, the conductor of the company's music, and an efficient choir of 300 voices will assist in the oratorios and other great performances which are to be given in the Palace.

A Town Lighted by Air Gas.—Great Marlow has been lighted by way of experiment with air gas, by charging common air with vapour of mineral oil by means of Kromschroder's patented apparatus. The result is said to have been satisfactory; the new gas having one-half higher illuminating power than the old. It was also stated that the new gas burns more slowly than coal gas, so that 100 ft. of it will go at least twice as far as 100 ft. of coal gas. It is said to store and travel quite as well, and can be produced at half the cost. The gas is inodorous and not explosive. A gallon of petroleum makes about 700 ft., and 70 ft. of air make 100 ft. of the gas. If all this be correct, it remains to be seen whether gas companies are to appropriate the advantages to themselves, or will at least share them with the public. The inventor of the apparatus proposes to provide cheap generators on a small scale for house cellars.

International Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Exhibition. — A great horticultural exhibition is to be held in the beginning of September at the Manchester Botanical Gardens, under the patronage of her Majesty, who has subscribed 25*l.*, and of other members of the Royal family. The council of the Manchester Botanical and Horticultural Society have subscribed 400*l.* towards the necessary expenses. A committee has been appointed, and subscriptions are solicited. A liberal sum will be offered in prizes, and the committee believe this will be the greatest horticultural show of its kind ever seen. Fruits of foreign growth, as from France, Italy, Holland and Belgium, Austria and Prussia, Turkey and Egypt, and from the United States of America, will be brought together, and placed side by side with fruits grown in our own land. There can be no doubt but that such a display will be both instructive and attractive.

Officers of the Royal Academy.—Mr. J. P. Knight having retired, after many years' service, from the post of secretary, the council have determined, we understand, to seek by advertisement a new secretary outside the walls of the Academy. The position is one which should command the services of a man of ability. The keepership is also vacant, Mr. Charles Landseer having resigned the appointment. This will doubtless be again filled by an Academician. Some changes in the library are talked of with the view of relieving the principal librarian, and affording additional facilities to readers.

Congregational Church and Schools Leek. — Extension of Buildings. — A new range of buildings has just been completed here: comprising on the ground-floor a lecture-room, 45 ft. by 22 ft., with entrance, &c.; and, above that, four commodious class-rooms, communicating with the present upper schoolroom. The new building is stone-faced, as the rest, and finished at each end by a gable and substantial buttressed chimney. On the lower story it has two cusped three-light windows into the lecture-room, and a door-case, with pointed, segmental, moulded arch, resting upon short columns, with carved caps in the jambs; the upper story gives a diversified skyline by three gablets, with a cusped two-light, and circlet over in each. Mr. W. Sugden, of Leek, is architect of all the buildings.

The Trades Movement.—The carpenters employed by Mr. W. Brown, builder, London-road, Lynn, have struck for an advance of 6d. a day wages. It appears that Mr. Brown has a contract on hand to be completed by a certain time on forfeiture of 5*l.* a day, and consequently engaged some Norwich hands at 6d. a day above those regularly employed: hence the dissatisfaction and strike.——Twelve men employed at the ironworks of a large firm near Wolverhampton left their duty suddenly at the end of the week, because they could not get an immediate increase of wages. The furnaces were thus out of blast for four days, and the puddlers and millmen idle. The offenders were brought before the magistrates, when they expressed contrition, and agreed to pay 10*s.* each as compensation for mischief which cost their employers 100*l.*

The New Telegraph Cable Ship.—The first ship that was ever constructed for the special purpose of laying telegraph cables has arrived in the Thames. She has been constructed for Hooper's Telegraph Works (Limited), by Messrs. Mitchell & Co., of Newcastle. The length of the vessel is 350 ft., beam 55 ft., depth 36 ft., and the registered tonnage 5,000 tons. She has an unusually large beam in proportion to her length, it being an important object to have the circular tanks for the stowage of the telegraph cables of as large dimensions as possible. The cable-tanks are three in number, and consist of circular cylinders extending from the inner bottom to upper deck, and of as large a diameter as the beam of the ship would permit. Their structure is incorporated with that of the hull itself, in such a way as to give mutual support.

Royal Architectural Museum.—The Goldsmiths' Company have forwarded to the council of the Royal Architectural Museum a donation of 50*l.* to help the institution in its work, in return for which the council undertake to exhibit the designs for the plate for which the Goldsmiths' Company offer prizes. The art-workmen's evening modelling and drawing classes have been well attended, as many as sixty entrance-fees having been paid. This result is mainly owing to the very practical instruction imparted by Messrs. Brindley and Redfern, two members of the Museum council, who have generously taken the duties of honorary instructors, while the council are seeking funds to provide for a permanent paid teacher.

A New Club-house for Liverpool.—We understand (says the *Liverpool Albion*) that a munificent gift is about to be made to the Conservative party in Liverpool. A millionaire alderman has just effected the purchase of the property and ground at the junction of North John-street and Victoria-street at a cost of nearly 30,000*l.*, with a view to erecting there a building adapted for the purposes of a club, which he is to hand over to the Conservative party as a free gift for political purposes.

Value of a House in Pall-mall. — The freehold mansion, land-tax redeemed, known as Adair House, Pall-mall and St. James's-square, lately in the occupation of the Dowager Lady Adair, recently deceased, was sold by auction, on Wednesday last, by Messrs. Rushworth, Abbott, & Co., of Savile-row, and produced the large sum of 35,500*l.* If we remember rightly, a larger sum was offered for it by the adjoining club, when they were arranging to build their house.

Portmadoc.—A new church, to accommodate 400 persons, will shortly be commenced at Portmadoc, North Wales. The building is to be carried out under the supervision of local architects, Messrs. Roberts & Morrow, from drawings by Messrs. Axmann & Perrott, of London, architects.